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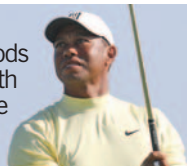


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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## Troubled by Turkey

Secretary of defense nominee Esper says he regrets ally's 'drift' from NATO

By ROBERT BURNS  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Army Secretary Mark Esper, President Donald Trump's nominee to become secretary of defense, told his Senate confirmation hearing Tuesday he is troubled by Turkey's decision to defy the U.S. by acquiring Russian-made air defenses.

"It is very disheartening to see how they have drifted over the past several years," Esper said, citing the Turkish government's purchase of the S-400 air defense system that the Trump administration has said is likely to trigger U.S. economic sanctions and jeopardize Turkey's role in the NATO alliance, whose primary adversary is Russia.

Turkey began taking delivery of S-400 components in recent days, but the Trump administration has yet to announce any retaliatory action. The Pentagon has repeatedly said the purchase would mean Turkey's indefinite suspension, and potentially its permanent removal, from the U.S. F-35 stealth fighter program.

SEE ESPER ON PAGE 4

Secretary of the Army Mark Esper listens Tuesday during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on his nomination to serve as secretary of defense.

JOE GROMELSH/Stars and Stripes

## N. Korea warns it might resume nuke, missile tests over US-S. Korean exercises

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea warned on Tuesday that upcoming U.S.-South Korean military exercises could stall the resumption of nuclear negotiations and suggested it might restart nuclear or missile tests, which were suspended last year.

The saber-rattling came a day after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he hoped

Washington and Pyongyang could "be a little more creative" in the next round of talks.

President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed to resume working-level talks during their meeting at the Korean border on June 30. The leaders didn't set a date, but Pompeo said at the time it would probably be in mid-July.

The U.S. administration is eager to break the deadlock that followed the collapse of a

second summit between Trump and Kim in February in Vietnam.

The sides failed to reach agreement as the North demanded extensive relief from economic sanctions and the U.S. insisted the North denuclearize first.

On Monday, Pompeo said the goal remained "to fully and finally denuclearize North Korea in a way that we can verify," but he also raised the possibility of compromise.

"I hope the North Koreans will come to the table with ideas that they didn't have the first time. We hope we can be a little more creative, too," he said in an interview on "The Sean Hannity Show."

North Korea also strongly objects to joint drills conducted each year by the U.S. and South Korea, as it considers them rehearsals for an invasion.

SEE TESTS ON PAGE 5

## MILITARY

# Enlisted women free to apply for sub duty

By JOSHUA KARSTEN  
Stars and Stripes

Enlisted women hoping to join the ranks of Navy submariners will no longer have to wait for in-queue opportunities to apply.

The Navy will now accept applications continuously from female enlisted sailors to serve in non-nuclear rates, said an administrative message signed by Vice Adm. John Nowell Jr., chief of naval personnel.

Women will be considered to serve on previously integrated crews on four submarines or initial enlisted integration on other boats.

In the past, application windows were determined by the submarine community's needs and available billets for the integration of individual boats, the service said in a statement Monday.

"Applications will be processed as they are received, and there is

no specified due date," according to the statement, which encouraged interested sailors to submit their applications "as soon as possible."

Enlisted women first integrated into submarine crews in 2015, five years after the Navy first lifted the prohibition on women serving in the submarine force, when 38 sailors were selected for two crews of the USS Michigan. Female officers first filled the ranks in 2011.

Under the new process, sailors for all communities can apply to be converted into one of 10 open submarine ratings — only four of which are open for chief petty officers and senior chief petty officers.

Sailors of all ranks up to senior chief can apply to be a submarine yeoman, culinary specialist, logistics specialist or information systems technician.

The ratings of sonar technician, fire control technician, elec-



**Sailors assigned to the guided missile submarine USS Florida conduct training in the Trident Training Facility at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga. The Navy will now accept applications continuously for enlisted women hoping to join the submarine ranks.**

ASHLEY BERUMEN  
Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

tronics technician navigation and electronics technician communications as well as machinist's mate weapons and machinist's mate auxiliary are open to sailors up to petty officer first class.

"Personnel specialists and independent duty corpsmen will also be considered," the statement said.

The non-nuclear submarine enlisted community manager will best fit each sailor to a rating based on their application package and the needs for each rating.

Applications will be considered for four previously integrated submarines: the USS Ohio and USS Michigan, out of Bangor,

Wash., and the USS Florida and USS Georgia, out of Kings Bay, Ga. The four subs are the last of the Ohio-class guided missile submarines that were converted from ballistic missile submarines in the 2000s.

Applicants must meet specific requirements, including clean records, the required minimum scores on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery for their desired ratings and the ability to pass a medical screening. All must be U.S. citizens with security clearances or the ability to qualify for one.

A separate announcement is expected to outline the conversion process for women in nuclear ratings.

The administrative message with further details can be viewed at the Navy Personnel Command website.

karsten.joshua@stripes.com  
Twitter: @joshua\_karsten

## Deadline extended for transferring education benefits to family

By SCOTT WYLAND  
Stars and Stripes

Military personnel with more than 16 years of service will have an additional six months to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to family members while Congress decides whether to remove the restriction on transfers.

A new Defense Department rule was set to take effect on July 12, limiting the benefit transfers to troops with at least six years of service but no more than 16 years.

The Pentagon extended the deadline

until Jan. 12, 2020, for troops who have more than 16 years of service to give Congress time to discuss the House Armed Services Committee's proposal to change the rule. Troops still must have served at least six years and be able to reenlist for four more years.

"This is a welcome decision by the department to slow down implementation of a policy that will unfairly affect some of our most seasoned servicemembers," Armed Services Committee member Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Conn., said in a statement.

Courtney proposed repealing the 16-

year limit and received the committee's unanimous support. He sent a letter on June 24 to acting Defense Secretary Mark Esper requesting that the Pentagon delay imposing the restriction.

The Pentagon announced plans for the limit in July 2018. Previously, there were no restrictions on when servicemembers could transfer education benefits to family members after they'd served six years.

Servicemembers wounded in combat who have received Purple Heart medals are exempted from the rule.

When veterans advocates criticized the

restriction, military officials said the transfers were intended as a retention tool and not as a benefit to career servicemembers.

In his letter to Esper, Courtney said efforts to retain good servicemembers shouldn't end at 16 years.

"Ultimately, we hope that you will reconsider implementing this new limitation entirely and look forward to working with you as we consider policies to attract and retain our country's best and the brightest," Courtney said.

wyland.scott@stripes.com  
Twitter: @wylandstripes

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## MILITARY

# Chinese ships reported near disputed islands

By AY ICHIHASHI  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A group of Chinese vessels entered Japanese territorial waters near the Senkakus — a group of uninhabited islands west of Okinawa in the East China Sea — on Monday, according to the Japanese coast guard.

"Four China Coast Guard vessels entered the territorial waters at about 4 p.m. on Monday and exited by 4:16 p.m.," a spokesman for Japan's 11th Regional Coast Guard in Naha told Stars and Stripes on

Tuesday morning. The rules of his job do not allow him to be named.

"The Japan Coast Guard warned the vessels to exit the waters and will continue warning them not to enter," he said.

China Coast Guard ships also entered Japanese-controlled waters on July 10, the spokesman said. Four vessels spent two hours in Japanese territory before exiting into the contiguous zone.

China Coast Guard vessels were spotted in the Japanese contiguous zone for 64 days straight from April 12 to June 14. The

contiguous zone extends past a nation's territorial waters and up to 24 nautical miles.

"Since the Senkaku Islands became Japanese land in 2012, this is the longest record" for Chinese incursions, the spokesman said.

On June 11, a Chinese aircraft carrier sailed between two islands in Okinawa prefecture, according to Japanese officials.

The carrier *Liaoning* was part of a six-ship flotilla that passed between the main island of Okinawa and Miyako Island as it made its way from the East China Sea to the

open ocean, a spokesman for Japan's Joint Staff told Stars and Stripes last month.

Japanese officials have been increasingly concerned about Chinese encroachment as Beijing modernizes its military and becomes more assertive in the region.

The number of jets Japan scrambled to intercept Chinese aircraft approaching its airspace rose 27.6% to 638 times in fiscal year 2018, according to the nation's Ministry of Defense.

ichihashi.aya@starsandstripes.com  
Twitter: @AyaIchihashi

## Proposed law calls on Pentagon to assess capabilities in Baltics

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A defense bill passed by U.S. lawmakers calls on the Pentagon to take steps to counter Russia in the Baltic region, including by potentially reinforcing air defenses and stepping up troop rotations.

The Baltic Reassurance Act is part of the National Defense Authorization Act, which was passed by House lawmakers last week.

The initiative, which still needs Senate backing, calls for the Defense Department to assess the need for more cyber, intelligence and surveillance capabilities, weapons depots and troop deployments in the Baltic region, where the U.S. military and Western security allies have warned that NATO allies may be outgunned by Russia.

Opportunities to transfer and sell military gear to the Baltic states also should be considered, the bill says.

The Baltic region has long been an area of concern for the U.S. military in Europe.

In 2016, NATO sent multinational battlegroups to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — all of which were annexed by the Soviet Union from the end of World War II until 1991 — and northern Poland to boost security amid a military buildup in Kaliningrad, a Russian exclave sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania depend on NATO's Baltic Air Policing mission to safeguard their skies. Russian military aircraft regularly encroach into Estonian airspace, and those violations have increased since 2014 when Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula.

Parts of the Baltic region, such as the Suwalki Gap corridor that runs along the Polish and Lithuanian borders, are also vulnerable to Russian aggression, analysts and military officials have warned.

"If Russian forces ever established control over the Suwalki region or even threatened the free movement of NATO personnel and equipment through it, they would effectively cut the Baltic States off from the rest of the Alliance," retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges warned in a 2018 report for the Washington-based Center for European Policy Analysis.

It is uncertain how the House version of the NDAA will fare in the Senate, given the partisan divide over the defense budget in the two houses and the fact that the Republican-controlled Senate passed its own NDAA last month. But the Baltic Reassurance Act provision was based on a bill authored by Texas Republican Rep. Michael Conway, suggesting bipartisan interest in doing more in the region.



ELLEN BRABO/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

With the assistance of a German engineer battalion, Strykers from the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment complete a contested wet-gap crossing near Kaunas, Lithuania, during training in June 2018. A defense bill passed by lawmakers wants the Pentagon to examine how to better reinforce the Baltics.

The House version of the NDAA calls on the Pentagon to consider "the feasibility of providing additional air and missile defense systems in the Baltic region."

The three former Soviet republics joined NATO in 2004. Poland joined in 1999.

It also calls for the U.S. military to analyze what the Baltic states need to "deter and resist aggression by Russia," and to study how to "enhance the posture and response readiness" of U.S. and allied forces in the re-

gion, potentially by increasing troop rotations and numbers of forward-based troops.

The U.S. "should lead a multi-lateral effort to develop a strategy to deepen joint capabilities with Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, NATO allies, and other regional partners, to deter against aggression from Russia in the Baltic region," says the House NDAA, which was drafted as the Pentagon deepens ties with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Lithuania and the U.S. signed a

defense agreement in April under which the U.S. pledged to help the Baltic state develop anti-tank and missile systems and said it would continue to send forces "to strengthen deterrence and to catalyze the efforts of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to develop their national defense further."

A similar agreement was struck last year with Poland, where the U.S. plans to increase the number of American troops.

vandiver.john@starsandstripes.com

## Air Force sends F-35s, F-15s to Europe in combat readiness test

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The U.S. Air Force sent a collection of fighters and transport aircraft to Poland, Lithuania and Estonia Tuesday in a test of the service's ability to quickly deploy air power overseas, the military said.

The deployment of F-35A Lightning IIs, F-15E Strike Eagles and C-130s arrived at Powidz air base in Poland as part of Operation

Rapid Forge, a drill designed to boost Air Force combat readiness, U.S. Air Forces in Europe said in a statement.

"The ability to operate at forward locations enables collective defense capabilities and provides the U.S. and NATO allies the strategic and operational breadth needed to deter adversaries and assure our allies and partners," USAFE said.

The aircraft conducted refueling and re-arming operations

using inert munitions.

The deployment was connected to the Pentagon's new Dynamic Force Employment strategy, which is focused on using more unpredictable deployments to demonstrate military agility to possible adversaries.

The Dynamic Force Employment concept, pushed by former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, is altering how the services train and operate overseas.

For the Navy, it has meant a

shift away from traditional six-month deployments to a flexible system that can involve shorter but more frequent stints at sea. And in March, the Army dispatched 1,500 soldiers from Fort Bliss, Texas, to Germany and onward to Poland in one of the service's largest snap mobilizations to Europe in years.

The F-35s taking part in Rapid Forge are from the 388th and 491st Fighter Wings at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. The F-15E

Strike Eagles are deployed from the 4th Fighter Wing, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

While in Europe, the squadrons of fighter jets are operating out of Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany.

The exercise also involves MC-130J aircraft from the 352nd Special Operations Wing at RAF Mildenhall, England, and C-130J aircraft from the 317th Airlift Wing at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas.



## MILITARY

# NATO nuke sites accidentally ID'd

## 'Worst-kept secret' revealed in Canadian official's report

By ADAM TAYLOR  
The Washington Post

A recently released — and subsequently deleted — document published by a NATO-affiliated body has sparked headlines in Europe with an apparent confirmation of a long-held open secret: U.S. nuclear weapons are being stored in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey.

A version of the document, titled "A new era for nuclear defence? Modernisation, arms control and allied nuclear forces," was published in April. Written by a Canadian senator for the Defense and Security Committee of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the report assessed the future of the organization's nuclear deterrence policy.

But what would make news months later is a passing reference that appeared to reveal the location of roughly 150 U.S. nuclear weapons being stored in Europe.

According to a copy of the document published Tuesday by Belgian newspaper De Morgen, a section on the nuclear arsenal read: "These bombs are stored at six US and European bases — Kleine Brogel in Belgium, Buechel in Germany, Aviano and Ghedi-Torre in Italy, Volkel in The Netherlands, and Incirlik in Turkey."

The document does not attribute this information to any source. Last week, a final version of the report was published online, and it omits the specific reference to where bombs are stored. Instead, the report refers vaguely to aircraft that could carry nuclear weapons.

"The European Allies often cited as operating such aircraft are Belgium, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, and Turkey," the document said, with a footnote citing a 2018 report by the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a U.S. nongovernmental organization.

Sen. Joseph Day, the author of the report, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

As a rule, neither the United States nor its European partners discuss the location of Washington's nuclear weapons on the continent.

"We do not comment on the details of NATO's nuclear posture," said a NATO official, speaking on the condition of anonymity in line with the organization's rules for talking to the media.

This is not an official NATO document, the official added,

## 'Finally in black and white: There are American nuclear weapons in Belgium.'

De Morgen  
Brussels newspaper

noting that it was written by members of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

A number of European outlets, however, viewed the report as confirmation of an open secret. "Finally in black and white: There are American nuclear weapons in Belgium," ran the report in De Morgen. "NATO reveals the Netherlands's worst-kept secret," said Dutch broadcaster RTL News.

The presence of U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe was indeed "no surprise," Kingston Reef, director for disarmament and threat-reduction policy at the Arms Control Association, said in an email. "This has long been fairly open knowledge."

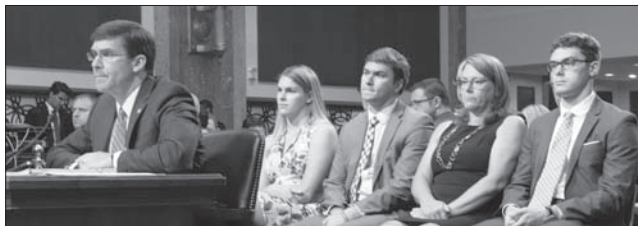
There had been a number of clear indications of the presence of U.S. nuclear weapons before.

A diplomatic cable from a U.S. ambassador to Germany suggested that there were concerns about how long the weapons could be kept in these countries.

"A withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Germany and perhaps from Belgium and the Netherlands could make it very difficult politically for Turkey to maintain its own stockpile," read the memo, written by then-U.S. Ambassador Philip Murphy in November 2009.

The presence of the weapons derived from an agreement reached in the 1960s and is in many ways a relic of the Cold War era — designed not only to act as deterrence to the nuclear armed-Soviet Union, but also to convince countries that they didn't need their own nuclear weapons program.

But times have changed. In 2016, after a coup attempt and the rapid spread of Islamic State next door, analysts openly wondered whether Turkey was really such a great place to store nuclear weapons.



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

Secretary of the Army Mark Esper listens during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on his nomination to serve as secretary of defense Tuesday on Capitol Hill. Behind him are, left to right, his daughter Kate, son Luke, wife Leah and son John.

# Esper: Nominee urges diplomacy with Iran

## FROM FRONT PAGE

Asked about the S-400 decision, Esper told the committee it was "the wrong one, and it's disappointing."

Later he went farther, saying that although Turkey has long been a reliable NATO ally, it is now headed in the wrong direction. He said he recently told Turkey's defense minister, "You can either have the S-400 or you can have the F-35. You cannot have both. Acquisition of the S-400 fundamentally undermines the capabilities of the F-35."

Esper also told the committee he believes the United States should pursue diplomatic solutions to its differences with Iran and avoid war.

"I agree we do not want war with Iran," he said. "We are not seeking war with Iran. We need to get back on the diplomatic channel."

Esper said the administration plans to brief lawmakers soon on a plan for working with other countries to more closely monitor commercial shipping in and around the Persian Gulf. He said this plan, which he called Operation Sentinel, is intended to deter Iran from impeding navigation in the Gulf and avoid Iranian

miscalculations.

Testifying a day after Trump submitted his nomination to the Senate, Esper faced a mostly friendly series of questions from members of the Armed Services Committee. One clear exception was Sen. Elizabeth Warren, the Massachusetts Democrat who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination. She indicated she does not intend to vote for Esper's confirmation, citing what she called his unwillingness to commit to avoiding potential conflicts of interest with his former employer Raytheon Co., which is a major defense contractor.

"You should not be confirmed as secretary of defense," Warren said.

The Republican-led Senate is expected to attempt to get Esper confirmed as early as Thursday, ending seven months of leadership uncertainty at the Pentagon. There has been no Senate-confirmed defense secretary since Jim Mattis left last New Year's Eve.

Mattis quit after a series of policy disputes with Trump, including the president's announcement in December that he would withdraw all U.S. troops from Syria — a move he never executed.

Several members of the Armed

Services Committee raised with Esper their concern that the Pentagon has suffered from a shortage of Senate-confirmed senior officials.

"I am concerned that the Defense Department is adrift in a way I have not seen in my whole time on Capitol Hill," said Sen. Jack Reed, a Rhode Island Democrat who has served in the Congress since 1991.

Esper, a former Army officer, said he met with White House officials on Monday to discuss plans to fill open positions, which include the civilian leader of the Air Force. The Air Force has had an acting secretary since Heather Wilson departed in May.

Esper is one of three people who have served as acting defense secretary this year, following Mattis' departure. The first was Patrick Shanahan, who was never nominated for the position and quit abruptly in June. Esper then took over as the acting secretary.

The moment Esper's nomination was received by the Senate on Monday, he was required by law to step out of his role as acting defense secretary until he is confirmed as the permanent secretary. He reverted to his previous position of Army secretary.

# Army activates combat adviser unit

By ROSE L. THAYER  
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — A third brigade tasked with training forces in countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan to provide better security was activated Tuesday at Fort Hood, Texas.

It is the third unit activated of five Security Force Assistance Brigades that the Army announced last year it would create. Though the concept is only a little more than a year old, service officials have credited the new brigades as offering better advisers to partner nations and allowing traditional brigade combat teams to concentrate on readiness.

The 3rd SFAB has about 820 soldiers who have been specially selected, trained and equipped as professional combat advisers to work with foreign security forces, according to a statement

from the unit. The brigades are training foreign forces to fight common enemies, not specifically terrorism, though the deployments of the first two SFABs have been to help forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The brigade represents a permanent solution to our force structure to provide a professional advising force to improve the effectiveness of our partners and achieve regional stability," according to the statement.

Brig. Gen. Charles J. Masaracchia is the 3rd SFAB commander. He previously commanded the 1st Armored Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team at Fort Bliss, Texas.

The Fort Hood unit falls under the Security Force Assistance Command within U.S. Army Forces Command. It joins the 1st SFAB, activated at Fort Benning,

Ga., in February 2018, and the 2nd SFAB at Fort Bragg, N.C. It activated in November 2018 and deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in February. The 1st SFAB completed its first deployment to the same region in November 2018.

The next two assistance brigades are scheduled to be activated at Fort Carson, Colo. and Fort Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. The 4th SFAB is to activate at Fort Carson by April 2020 and the 5th SFAB by December 2020, according to information from the Security Force Assistance Command.

No deployments are scheduled for 3rd SFAB, but soldiers will travel to Fort Polk, La., in the summer for a training rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center.

Thayer.rose@stripes.com  
Twitter:@Rose\_Lori



## MILITARY

# US fears Iran seized UAE-based oil tanker

By JON GAMBRELL  
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A small oil tanker from the United Arab Emirates traveling through the Strait of Hormuz entered Iranian waters and turned off its tracker two days ago, leading the U.S. to suspect Iran seized the vessel amid heightened tensions in the region, an American defense official said Tuesday.

Iran offered no immediate comment on what happened to the Panamanian-flagged oil tanker Riah late Saturday night, though an Emirati official acknowledged the vessel sent out no distress call. Oil tankers previously have been targeted in the wider region amid tensions between the U.S. and Iran over its unraveling nuclear deal with world powers.

The concern about the Riah comes as Iran continues its own high-pressure campaign over its nuclear program after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord more than a year ago.

Recently, Iran has inched its uranium production and enrichment over the limits of its 2015 nuclear deal, trying to put more pressure on Europe to offer it better terms and allow it to sell its crude oil abroad.

However, those tensions also have seen the U.S. send thousands of additional troops, nuclear-capable B-52 bombers and advanced fighter jets into the Mideast. Mysterious attacks on oil tankers and Iran shooting down a U.S. military surveillance drone have added to the fears of an armed conflict breaking out.

The Riah, a 190-foot oil tanker, typically made trips from Dubai and Sharjah on the UAE's west coast before going through the strait and heading to Fujairah on the UAE's east coast. However, something happened to the vessel after 11 p.m. Saturday, according to tracking data.

Capt. Ranjith Raja, of the data firm Refinitiv, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the



KHAMRAN JEBREILI/AP

The U.S. suspects Iranian involvement in an explosion last month that damaged the Japanese-owned oil tanker *Kokuka Courageous*, shown Monday in dry dock for repairs in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and in the disappearance two days ago of another small tanker in Iranian waters.

tanker hadn't switched off its tracking in three months of trips around the UAE.

"That is a red flag," Raja said. A U.S. defense official later told the AP that the Riah was in Iranian territorial waters near Qeshm Island, which has a Revolutionary Guard base on it.

"We certainly have suspicions that it was taken," the official said. "Could it have broken down or been towed for assistance? That's a possibility. But the longer there is a period of no contact ... it's going to be a concern."

The official spoke on condition of anonymity as the matter did not directly involve U.S. interests.

An Emirati official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing security matter, said the vessel "did not emit a distress call."

"We are monitoring the situation with our international partners," the official said.

The ship's registered owner, Dubai-based Prime Tankers LLC, told the AP it had sold the ship to another company called Mouj Al-Bahar. A man who answered a telephone number registered to the firm told the AP it didn't own any ships. The Emirati official said the ship was "neither UAE owned nor operated" and carried no Emirati personnel, without elaborating.

Separately Tuesday, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said his country will retaliate over the seizure of an Iranian supertanker carrying 2.1 million barrels of light crude oil. The vessel was seized with the help of British Royal Marines earlier this month off Gibraltar over suspicion it was heading to Syria in violation of European Union sanctions, an operation Khamenei called "piracy" in a televised speech.

"God willing, the Islamic Re-

public and its committed forces will not leave this evil without a response," he said. He did not elaborate.

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said Saturday that Britain will facilitate the release of the ship if Iran can provide guarantees the vessel will not breach European sanctions on oil shipments to Syria.

Iran previously has threatened to stop oil tankers passing through the strait, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all crude oil passes, if it cannot sell its own oil abroad.

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif seemed to suggest in a television interview that the Islamic Republic's ballistic missile program could be up for negotiations with the U.S., a possible opening for talks as tensions remain high between Tehran and Washington. Zarif suggested an initially high

price for such negotiations — the halt of American arms sales to both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, two key U.S. allies in the Persian Gulf.

Iran's ballistic missile program remains under the control of the Iranian paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which answers only to Khamenei.

Zarif brought up the ballistic missile suggestion during an interview with NBC News that aired Monday night while he is in New York for meetings at the United Nations. He mentioned the UAE spending \$22 billion and Saudi Arabia spending \$67 billion on weapons last year, many of them American-made, while Iran spent only \$16 billion in comparison.

"These are American weaponry that is going into our region, making our region ready to explode," Zarif said. "So if they want to talk about our missiles, they need first to stop selling all these weapons, including missiles, to our region."

Iran's mission to the United Nations later called Zarif's suggestion "hypothetical."

"Iran's missiles ... are absolutely and under no condition negotiable with anyone or any country, period," the mission said.

Trump during his time in the White House has pointed to arms sales to the Mideast as important to the American economy so it remains unclear how he'd react to cutting into those purchases.



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## Tests: Next training exercise with S. Korea expected in August

### FROM FRONT PAGE

The Trump administration announced this year that it was canceling the main drills that occurred each spring and fall, known as Key Resolve/Foal Eagle and Ulchi Freedom Guardian.

The U.S. was not mollified because the allied militaries replaced them with smaller-scale training exercises. The next one is expected to take place in August, although no official announcement has been made.

"If the military exercise really goes ahead, it would affect the [North Korean-U.S.] working-level talks," an unnamed North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted as saying by the state-run Korean Central News

Agency.

"We will formulate our decision on the opening of the [North Korean-U.S.] working-level talks while keeping watch over the U.S. move hereafter," the spokesman said.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry also accused the U.S. of violating the spirit of a June 12 agreement reached during the first summit between Kim and Trump.

Trump announced after that meeting that he was "stopping the war games," a move that critics said was a major concession to the North in exchange for little in return.

Kim suspended nuclear and missile tests last year as diplomacy gained momentum.

"With the U.S. unilaterally re-

neging on its commitments, we are gradually losing our justification to follow through on the commitments we made with the U.S.," the Foreign Ministry said in a separate statement carried on KCNA.

It noted that "our decision to suspend nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests" as well as the U.S. decision to suspend joint military drills were aimed at improving bilateral relations and weren't legal documents.

U.S. Forces Korea, the main command for some 28,500 American troops stationed in South Korea, said "readiness remains the number one priority."

As a matter of standard operating procedure, and in order to preserve space for diplomacy

to work, we do not discuss any planned training or exercises publicly," USFK said in a statement.

"We continue to train in a combined manner at echelon while harmonizing our training program with diplomatic efforts by adjusting four dials: size, scope, volume and timing," it said.

Meanwhile, David Stilwell, the new top U.S. diplomat for East Asia and Pacific affairs, arrived in Seoul for a meeting with senior officials on the alliance and regional issues.

The discussions were expected to include North Korea as well as a trade dispute between South Korea and Japan.

game1.kim@stripes.com  
Twitter: @kingame1

## NATION

# US and Russia set for talks on arms control

By DEB RIECHMANN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Delegations from the U.S. and Russia are expected to meet this week to discuss arms control and the possibility of coaxing China into negotiating a new, three-way nuclear weapons pact, two senior administration officials said Monday.

The New START treaty, the last major arms control treaty remaining between the U.S. and Russia, expires in 2021. There has been talk of negotiating an extension to the existing treaty, but the White House thinks the next generation of arms control must include China.

China has nuclear weapons, ballistic missile capabilities and the know-how to make chemical and biological weapons — and it is updating its nuclear arsenal. China has signed various international weapons agreements, but none limiting nuclear weapons.

New START restricts both the U.S. and Russia to 1,550 deployed strategic nuclear warheads on a maximum of 700 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles and strategic bombers.

Daryl Kimball, director of the Arms Control Association, has advocated for a five-year extension of New START, saying there is no chance a new agreement adding China can be negotiated before the treaty expires in 2021.

"It would be malpractice to discard New START in the hopes of negotiating a more comprehensive, ambitious nuclear arms control agreement with Russia and China and getting it ratified and into force," said Kimball, who accuses the Trump administration of dithering for more than a year before beginning talks.

Before the Group of 20 sum-

mit last month in Japan, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he planned to push President Donald Trump for an extension to New START. Putin said his nation was ready to agree to an extension, but Russia had not seen any initiative from the Americans even though the treaty expires in 2021.

At the same time, Russia also has expressed an interest in multilateral arms control deals, according to one of the administration officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the issue ahead of the talks Wednesday in Geneva.

The senior administration officials said any comprehensive dialogue about the thorny issues of arms control has been made difficult by a series of actions by Moscow: interfering in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, poisoning a former spy and his daughter in Britain, capping the size of the U.S. Embassy in Russia and seizing Ukrainian vessels.

John Sullivan, deputy secretary of state, will lead the American delegation comprising officials from the State Department, National Security Council, Defense Department, Joint Chiefs of Staff and the National Security Agency. The eight or nine members of the U.S. team will meet with a similar-size delegation from Russia led by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov.

The latest talks are being held just months after the Trump administration pulled the plug on a separate nuclear arms treaty with Russia. Washington accused Moscow of violating the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty with "impunity" by deploying banned missiles. Moscow denied it was in violation and has accused the United States of resisting its efforts to resolve the dispute.



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Anti-abortion advocates like these gathered outside the Planned Parenthood clinic in St. Louis last month are hailing a Trump administration decision to enforce a ban on abortion referrals at taxpayer-funded family planning clinics.

## Trump abortion rule seen as a blow against Planned Parenthood

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Taxpayer-funded family planning clinics must stop referring women for abortions immediately, the Trump administration says, declaring it will begin enforcing a new regulation hailed by religious conservatives and denounced by medical organizations and women's rights groups.

The head of a national umbrella group representing the clinics said the Republican administration is following "an ideological agenda" that could disrust basic health care for many low-income women.

Ahead of a planned conference Tuesday with the clinics, the Department of Health and Human Services formally notified them that it will begin enforcing the ban on abortion referrals, along with a requirement that clinics maintain separate finances from facilities that provide abortions. Another requirement that both kinds of facilities cannot be under the same roof would take effect next year.

The rule is widely seen as a blow against Planned Parenthood, which provides taxpayer-funded family planning and basic health care to low-income women as well as abortions that must be paid for separately. The organization is a mainstay of the federally funded family planning program and has threatened to quit over the issue.

Planned Parenthood President Leana Wen said in a statement that "our doors are still open" as her organization and other groups seek to overturn the

regulations in federal court.

"We will not stop fighting for all those across the country in need of essential care," Wen said.

HHS said no judicial orders currently prevent it from enforcing the rule while the litigation proceeds.

Clare Coleman, president of the umbrella group National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, said "the administration's actions show its intent is to further an ideological agenda."

Abortion opponents welcomed the administration's move on Monday.

"Ending the connection between abortion and family planning is a victory for common-sense health care," Kristian Hawkins, president of Students for Life, said in a statement.

Known as Title X, the family planning program serves about 4 million women annually through independent clinics, many operated by Planned Parenthood affiliates, which serve about 40% of all clients. The program provides about \$260 million a year in grants to clinics.

The family planning rule is part of a series of Trump administration efforts to remake government policy on reproductive health. Other regulations tangled up in court would allow employers to opt out of offering free birth control to women workers on the basis of religious or moral objections and grant health care professionals wider leeway to opt out of procedures that offend their religious or moral scruples.

## Border employees under internal investigation for social media posts

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials said Monday that 62 current and eight former Border Patrol employees are under internal investigation following revelations of a secret Facebook group that mocked lawmakers and migrants.

Most are under investigation for posts that surfaced in a secret group called "I'm 10-15," where messages questioned the authenticity of images of a migrant father and child dead on the banks of the Rio Grande River and depicted crude, doctored images of U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., purporting to perform a sex act on President Donald Trump.

"Messages posted on a private page that are discriminatory or harassing are not protected and violate standards of conduct," said Matthew Klein, assistant commissioner of the agency's Office of Professional Responsibility.

There were posts in at least one other closed group under investigation, he said. Klein said his agency referred the case to the Homeland Security Department's watchdog agency, which declined to investigate and sent the case back to Customs and Border Protection. He said they are now focused on fact-finding and would identify criminal behavior if there was any but it was not considered a criminal probe.

ProPublica first posted details of the

Facebook group, which boasts 9,500 members, just as Ocasio-Cortez and other Democrats were headed to tour border facilities.

In addition to the doctored images of Ocasio-Cortez, comments referred to Ocasio-Cortez and fellow Democratic Rep. Veronica Escobar, of Texas, as "hoes," and one member encouraged agents to throw a "burrito into these bitches," according to screenshots obtained by ProPublica.

A news story about a 16-year-old Guatemalan migrant who died in Border Patrol custody in May elicited a response from one member that read, "If he dies, he dies."

The posts threatened to tarnish the Border Patrol's image at one of the most chal-

lenging times in its 95-year history.

Border Patrol Chief Carla Provost said the posts were unacceptable.

"These posts are completely inappropriate and contrary to the honor and integrity I see — and expect — from our agents day in and day out," Provost said in an earlier statement. "Any employees found to have violated our standards of conduct will be held accountable."

News reports have since surfaced that she may have also been a member at once point, though there is no indication she knew about the inflammatory posts.

Officials on Monday would not say whether those under investigation included Provost or other top brass.

# NATION

## Mnuchin says budget deal is 'very close'

By ANDREW TAYLOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and top Senate Republican Mitch McConnell vs. hardliners in the White House as lawmakers pursue a deal on federal spending and the debt. The hardliners, wary of further increases to federal spending, appear to be losing.

Talks between Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin appear to be progressing. Mnuchin on Monday told reporters, "I think we're very close to a deal," though he cautioned that "these deals are increasing."

Mnuchin says impacting the \$22 trillion debt limit needs to be done this month to avert any risk of a U.S. default on obligations like bond payments. He said he doesn't think there will be a government shutdown when the budget year ends Sept. 30, nor does he think "either party or anybody wants to put the credit of the United States government at risk."

Previous negotiations toward a budget deal had included White House conservatives like acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney. But Mnuchin is taking the lead for the administration in the talks with Pelosi as the speaker doesn't have a productive relationship with Mulvaney.

Mnuchin and Pelosi spoke again Monday evening.

The talks increasingly hinge on a durable, powerful and familiar political coalition: GOP defense hawks demanding bigger Pentagon budgets and Democrats seeking equal treatment for domestic priorities.

Three previous fiscal deals over the past years, conducted when Democrats were in the House minority, were greased by lawmakers' appetite for both guns and butter — to the dismay of deficit hawks relegated to Washington's endangered species list. Now, after winning back the House, Pelosi has greater leverage, especially because of the need to increase the government's borrowing cap.

"We gave them an obscene amount of money just two years ago," said Hazen Marshall, a former Senate GOP budget and leadership aide. "And now they want more on top of that. There's a never-ending desire to keep on ramping it up."

Lawmakers are negotiating an increase to spending "caps" for federal agency budgets, along with separate must-do legislation to increase the government's debt limit. The negotiations are opaque but appear to be guided by the concept of "parity" in spending increases for defense and nondefense agency budgets, based on a public exchange of letters between Mnuchin and Pelosi over the past few days.

The duo of Pelosi, D-Calif., and McConnell, R-Ky., is a partnership of necessity. The two have a chilly but professional relationship and their interests rarely

align. But when they team up — as they did on a government spending deal in February — they are virtually unstoppable. Both have long histories with Capitol Hill's appropriations process, the painstakingly bipartisan and pragmatic job of annually divvying up the one-third of the federal budget allocated by Congress each year.

Pelosi's mandate is to increase, as much as possible, the portion of the federal pie going to Democratic priorities such as health care, education, housing and the environment.

McConnell played a key behind-the-scenes role in setting up the negotiations and has encouraged Mnuchin's central role. He wants a deal that would satisfy



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

**Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is working with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in an attempt to reach agreement on federal spending and the national debt.**

his defense hawks and his pragmatic-minded power base on the Appropriations Committee. He also knows that the path to a successful deal goes through Pe-

losi and is likely to include more money than Mulvaney, a former tea party lawmaker, would like.

The alternatives to a deal are distasteful to both sides, and include freezing spending at current levels and operating most of the government essentially on autopilot under a measure known as a continuing resolution. That prospect, talked up behind the scenes by Mulvaney and his allies, is alarming to GOP lawmakers focused on Pentagon policy, who say it would harm military readiness, hurt efforts to relieve procurement shortfalls and scramble long-term Pentagon budget strategies.

The negotiations are closely held but a key concern for Pelosi is getting \$22 billion over the next

two years to cover the rapidly growing cost of privately provided veterans health care. She sent a letter to Mnuchin on Saturday night agreeing with his request to increase the debt limit but pushing for relief for the Veterans Administration's private health care program, which threatens to squeeze other domestic priorities.

"I wanted to put in writing what our concern was," Pelosi said Monday. "We have an additional initiative that was added, but you can't just take it out of other veterans programs or other programs."

Republicans say those VA costs should be absorbed inside the \$600 billion set aside for nondefense agencies.



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## NATION

# Trump digs in on incendiary tweets, says 'many agree'

BY ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN  
AND JONATHAN LEMIRE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defiant in the face of widespread criticism, President Donald Trump renewed his belligerent call for four Democratic congresswomen of color to get out of the U.S. "right now," cementing his position as the most willing U.S. leader in generations to stoke the discord that helped send him to the White House.

Content to gamble that a sizable chunk of the electorate embraces his tweets that have been widely denounced as racist, the president made clear that he has no qualms about exploiting racial divisions once again.

"It doesn't concern me because many people agree with me," Trump said Monday at the White House. "A lot of people love it, by the way."

The episode served notice that Trump is willing to again rely on incendiary rhetoric on issues of race and immigration to preserve his political base in the lead-up to the 2020 election.

There was near unanimous condemnation from Democrats for Trump's comments and a rumble of discontent from a subset of Republicans — but notably not from the party's congressional leaders.

Republican Sen. Mitt Romney, of Utah, the party's White House nominee in 2012 and now one of the president's most vocal GOP critics, said Trump's comments were "destructive, demeaning and disunifying."

Far from backing down, Trump on Monday dug in on comments he had initially made a day earlier on Twitter that if lawmakers "hate our country," they can go back to their "broken and crime-infested" countries. His remarks were directed at four congresswomen: Reps. Ilhan Omar, of Minnesota; Alexandria Ocasio-

Cortez, of New York; Ayanna Pressley, of Massachusetts; and Rashida Tlaib, of Michigan. All are American citizens and three of the four were born in the U.S.

"If you're not happy in the U.S., if you're complaining all the time, you can leave, you can leave right now," he said.

The president's words, which evoked the trope of telling black people to go back to Africa, may have been partly meant to widen the divides within the House Democratic caucus, which has been riven by internal debate over how best to oppose his policies. While Trump's attacks brought Democrats together in defense of their colleagues, his allies noted he was also having some success in making the controversial progressive lawmakers the face of their party.

The president questioned whether Democrats should "want to wrap" themselves around this group of four people as he recited a list of the quartet's most controversial statements.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who said Trump's campaign slogan truly means he wants to "make America white again," announced Monday that the House would vote on a resolution condemning his new comments.

The resolution "strongly condemns President Donald Trump's racist comments" and says they "have legitimized and increased fear and hatred of new Americans and people of color."

The Senate's top Democrat, Chuck Schumer, of New York, said his party would also try to force a vote in the GOP-controlled chamber.

Among the few GOP lawmakers commenting Monday, Rep. Pete Olson of Texas said Trump's tweets were "not reflective of the values of the 1,000,000+ people" in his district. "I urge our President immediately disavow his comments," he wrote.

## Trump requires more US components in federal purchases

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed an executive order Monday that will require federal agencies to purchase products using more American components.

The order strengthens the standards that federal agencies must follow under the Buy American Act, which creates a preference for American-made goods.

Trump said his order will gradually boost the percentage of U.S.

components for qualifying American-made products from 50% to 75%. He said the threshold would increase to 95% for iron and steel products.

"The philosophy of my administration is simple. If we can build it, grow it or make it in the United States, we will," Trump said.

A trade group representing the steel industry called Trump's action "another positive step" in ensuring the industry remains competitive.

"Strong domestic procurement



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., speaks as, from left, Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich.; Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn.; and Rep. Ayanna Pressley, D-Mass., listen during a news conference in Washington on Monday in response to President Donald Trump's comments about them.

## 4 congresswomen attacked by Trump decry 'bigoted remarks'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Four Democratic congresswomen of color under attack by President Donald Trump fired back Monday, condemning what they called "xenophobic bigoted remarks" and renewing calls for Democrats to begin impeachment proceedings. Trump had called on the four to "go back" to their "broken and crime-infested" countries in tweets that have been widely denounced as racist. His remarks were directed at Reps. Ilhan Omar, of Minnesota; Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, of New York; Ayanna Pressley, of Massachusetts; and Rashida Tlaib, of Michigan. All are American citizens, and three of the four were born in the U.S.

At a news conference with her three colleagues, Pressley referred to Trump as "the occupant of our White House" instead of president.

"He does not embody the grace, the empathy, the compassion, the

**'[President Donald Trump] does not embody the grace, the empathy, the compassion, the integrity that that office requires and that the American people deserve.'**

Rep. Ayanna Pressley  
D-Mass.

integrity that that office requires and that the American people deserve," she said, encouraging people "not take the bait."

Pressley said Trump's comments were "a disruptive distraction from the issues of care, concern and consequence to the American people" — prescription

drug prices, affordable housing, health care."

Omar, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Somalia, accused him of "openly violating" the Constitution and sounded the call for impeachment proceedings.

Ocasio-Cortez said Trump "does not know how to defend his policies and so what he does is attack us personally."

Trump singled out Omar, in particular, accusing her of having "hated" for Israel and expressing "love" for "enemies like al-Qaida."

In an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll from February 2017, half of Americans said the mixing of culture and values from around the world is an important part of America's identity as a nation. About a third said the same of a culture established by early European immigrants.

But partisans in that poll were divided over those aspects of America's identity.

national Taxpayers Union's Free Trade Initiative.

"When we artificially reduce the pool of qualified suppliers or the variety of eligible supplies that can satisfy procurement requirements, projects cost more, take longer to complete and suffer from lower quality," said Dan Ikenson, director of trade studies at the libertarian Cato Institute.

The president signed the order during an annual White House "Made in America" showcase. Manufacturers from all 50 states

were represented.

Trump has made it a priority to boost U.S. manufacturing. Even so, the nation's trade deficit has continued to grow under his watch, widening to a decade-long high of \$621 billion in 2018.

Dave Drabkin, former chairman of a federal panel that recommended improvements to the defense acquisition system, said it would likely take at least nine months to complete the rule necessary to enact Trump's directive.

## NATION

# Apollo 11 astronaut returns to launch pad

## Collins marks moment of blastoff 50 years later

By MARCIA DUNN  
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Apollo 11 astronaut Michael Collins returned Tuesday to the exact spot where he flew to the moon 50 years ago with Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin.

Collins had the spotlight to himself this time — Armstrong has been gone for seven years and Aldrin canceled. Collins said he wished his two moonwalking colleagues could have shared the moment at Kennedy Space Center's Launch Complex 39A, the departure point for humanity's first moon landing.

"Wonderful feeling to be back," the 88-year-old command module pilot said on NASA TV. "There's a difference this time. I want to turn and ask Neil a question and maybe tell Buzz Aldrin something, and of course, I'm here by myself."

At NASA's invitation, Collins marked the precise moment — 9:32 a.m. on July 16, 1969 — that the Saturn V rocket blasted off. He was seated at the base of the pad alongside Kennedy's director, Robert Cabana, a former space shuttle commander.

Collins recalled the tension surrounding the crew that day.

"Apollo 11 ... was serious business," he said. "We, crew, felt the weight of the world on our shoulders. We knew that everyone would be looking at us, friend or foe, and we wanted to do the best we possibly could."

Collins remained in lunar orbit, tending to Columbia, the mother ship, while Armstrong and Aldrin landed in the Eagle on July 20, 1969, and spent 2½ hours walking the gray, dusty lunar surface.

A reunion Tuesday at the Kennedy firing room by past and present launch controllers — and Collins' return to the pad, now leased to SpaceX — kicked off a week of celebrations marking each day of Apollo 11's eight-day voyage.

At the Air and Space Museum in Washington, the spacesuit that Armstrong wore went back on display in mint condition, complete with lunar dust left on the suit's knees, thighs and elbows. On hand for the unveiling were Vice President Mike Pence, NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine and Armstrong's older son, Rick. Armstrong died in 2012.

A fundraising campaign took just five days to raise the \$500,000 needed for the restoration.

In Huntsville, Ala., where the Saturn V was developed, thousands of model rockets were launched simultaneously, commemorating the moment the Apollo 11 crew blasted off for the moon. Hundreds of youngsters attending Space Camp counted



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

**Neil Armstrong's Apollo 11 spacesuit is displayed at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington on Tuesday.**

down ... "5, 4, 3, 2, 1!" — and cheered as the rockets created a gray cloud, at least for a few moments, in the sky.

Back at Kennedy, NASA televised original launch video of Apollo 11, timed down to the second. Then Cabana turned the conversation to NASA's next moonshot program, Artemis, named after the twin sister of Greek mythology's Apollo. It seeks to put the first woman and next man on the lunar surface — the moon's south pole — by 2024. President John F. Kennedy's challenge to put a man on the moon by the end of 1969 took eight years to achieve.

Collins said he likes the name Artemis and, even more, likes the concept behind Artemis.

"But I don't want to go back to the moon," Collins told Cabana. "I want to go direct to Mars. I call it the JFK Mars Express."

Collins noted that the moon-first crowd has merit to its argument and he pointed out Armstrong himself was among those

**'I don't want to go back to the moon. I want to go direct to Mars. I call it the JFK Mars Express.'**

Michael Collins  
Apollo 11 astronaut



FRANK MICHAUX, NASA/AP

**Astronaut Michael Collins, right, speaks to Kennedy Space Center Director Bob Cabana at Launch Complex 39A on Tuesday about the moments leading up to the launch of Apollo 11 at 9:32 a.m. on July 16, 1969.**



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

**Rafael Santos and Silvia Freddo and their two children, Jose Eduardo, 11, right, and Gustavo, 6, bottom, take a selfie with some of the first visitors to view Armstrong's Apollo 11 spacesuit.**

who believed returning to the moon "would assist us mightily in our attempt to go to Mars."

Cabana assured Collins, "We believe the faster we get to the moon, the faster we get to Mars as we develop those systems that we need to make that happen."

About 100 of the original 500 launch controllers and managers on July 16, 1969, reunited in the firing room Tuesday.

The lone female launch controller for Apollo 11, JoAnn Morgan, enjoyed seeing the much updated firing room. One thing was notably missing, though: stacks of paper. "We could have walked to the moon

on the paper," Morgan said.

Collins was to be reunited later in the day with two other Apollo astronauts at an evening gala at Kennedy, including Apollo 16 moonwalker Charlie Duke, who was the capsule communicator in Mission Control for the Apollo 11 moon landing. The U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville also had a special anniversary dinner on tap, with Aldrin and other retired Apollo astronauts and rocket scientists.

Only four of the 12 moonwalkers from 1969 through 1972 are still alive: Aldrin, Duke, Apollo 15's David Scott and Apollo 17's Harrison Schmitt.

NASA spokesman Bob Jacobs said Aldrin, 89, bowed out of the launch pad visit, citing his intense schedule of appearances. Aldrin hosted a gala in Southern California on Saturday and planned to head directly to the Huntsville dinner. Aldrin and Collins may reunite in Washington this Friday or Saturday, the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11's moon landing.

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## NATION

# Immigration arrest can require hours of surveillance

By ELLIOT SPAGAT  
Associated Press

ESCONDIDO, Calif. — Two immigration officers had been parked outside a home well before dawn when their target — a Mexican man convicted of driving under the influence in 2015 — appeared to emerge as the sun illuminated a gray sky.

"I'm going to do a vehicle stop," an officer radioed. "I'm right behind you," said another, lights flashing as they ordered the driver into a liquor store parking lot.

As it turned out, the man they pulled over was not the one they were looking for. But he happened to be in the country illegally too and was taken into custody.

The arrest last week near San Diego illustrates how President Donald Trump's pledge to deport millions of immigrants who are in the U.S. without legal permission would be highly impractical to carry out, maybe impossible. For U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, picking up people is a time-consuming, labor-intensive and not always successful task.

An arrest of just one immigrant often requires days of surveillance.

At the same time, ICE has a limited budget and a shortage of detention space. Also, more and more law enforcement agencies, especially those in big cities, are refusing to help ICE as part of the growing "sanctuary" movement, slowing down the arrests of immigrants even more.

ICE tactics are in the spotlight after warnings from the Trump administration that it planned to begin a sweep Sunday in 10 cities

against families who are in the country illegally and have been ordered to leave. Trump claimed Monday that the operation had a successful start, even though there was no sign of a large-scale operation in those cities.

In the recent San Diego operation, officers made 20 arrests over five days. They wore bullet-proof vests emblazoned with "ICE" on the back and used several unmarked SUVs, immediately ordering those in custody to turn off their phones to prevent family and friends from tracking their movements.

Gregory Archambeault, ICE director of field operations in San Diego, said staking out targets can be like watching paint dry. "Today it happened pretty quickly, but other times it can take several hours,"

he said. "Today it happened pretty quickly, but other times it can take several hours. We have to go back different days," Archambeault said in the parking lot of a bus and train station where immigrants waited in a bus to be processed.

An estimated 11 million people are in the U.S. illegally, including 525,000 who have deportation orders against them and are considered fugitives. Those fugitives include 2,000 people who recently came as families and are targets



PHOTOS BY GREGORY BULL/AP

**U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers detain a man during an operation in Escondido, Calif., on July 8. The carefully orchestrated arrest illustrated the difficulty of enforcing President Donald Trump's pledge to deport millions of people in the country illegally.**



**ICE officers transfer a man in hand and ankle cuffs into a van during the operation in Escondido.**

of the operation that was expected to begin Sunday.

ICE operations that zero in on people with criminal convictions in the U.S. result in about 30% of targets being arrested, plus an unknown number of nontargets, or "collaterals," who are also swept up, ICE officials said. ICE

operations against families have proved even less successful, capturing only about 10 percent of the targets, ICE acting Director Matthew Albence said.

ICE officers don't have warrants that would allow them to enter homes, a fact that immigration advocates have successfully

publicized in encouraging people not to open their doors. For safety reasons, officers in San Diego have stopped "knock and talks" — knocking on the door and hoping someone opens up — and instead wait for targets to leave the house, Archambeault said.

"You just don't know what's going on, who's behind that door," he said.

It is far less costly and more effective for ICE to pick up people at local jails when they are arrested for nonimmigration offenses. But a spate of sanctuary laws has sharply limited local authorities' cooperation in California and elsewhere.

The man taken into custody in Escondido was a Mexican man who happened to borrow the target's red pickup to get to work at a landscaping company. Immigration activists decry such collateral arrests, which were sharply curtailed during President Barack Obama's second term. Trump administration officials are unapologetic.

"It's not the target, but it's still a good arrest," Archambeault said.

## Churches offer sanctuary amid threat of immigration raids

By SOPHIA TARREN  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — As a nationwide immigration crackdown loomed, religious leaders across the country used their pulpits Sunday to quell concerns in immigrant communities and spring into action to help those threatened by the operation.

A Chicago priest talked during his homily about the compassion of a border activist accused of harboring illegal immigrants, while another city church advertised a "deportation defense workshop."

"Dozens of churches in Houston and Los Angeles offered sanctuary to anyone afraid of being arrested. In Miami, activists handed out flyers outside churches to help immigrants know their rights in case of an arrest."

"We're living in a time where the law may permit the government to do certain things but that doesn't necessarily make it right," said the Rev. John Celichowski, of

St. Clare de Montefalco Parish in Chicago, where the nearly 1,000-member congregation is 90 percent Hispanic and mostly immigrant.

Agents had been expected to start a coordinated action Sunday targeting roughly 2,000 people, including families, with final deportation orders in 10 major cities, including Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Miami.

Activists and city officials reported some U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity in New York and Houston a day earlier, but it was unclear if it was part of the same operation.

The Houston advocacy group FIEL said two people were arrested there Saturday. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio confirmed there were three incidents involving ICE on Saturday, but agents didn't succeed in rounding up residents.

The renewed threat of mass deportations has put immigrant communities even

more on edge since Trump took office on a pledge to deport millions living in the country illegally.

While such enforcement operations have been routine since 2003, Trump's publicizing its start, and the politics surrounding it, are unusual. Trump first announced the sweeps last month then delayed to give lawmakers a chance to address the southern border.

Cardinal Blase Cupich, the archbishop of Chicago, wrote a letter to Archdiocese priests this month saying, "Threats of broad enforcement actions by ICE are meant to terrorize communities." He urged priests in the Archdiocese — which serves more than 2 million Catholics — not to let any immigration officials into churches without identification or a warrant.

The Rev. Robert Stearns, of Living Water in Houston, organized 25 churches in the city to make space available to any families who wanted to seek sanctuary while

they sorted out their legal status. A dozen churches in the Los Angeles area also declared themselves sanctuaries.

Doris Aguirre, who is from Honduras and has a final deportation order, attended Sunday mass at Adalberto United Methodist in Chicago.

She said she will keep fighting her case and for her family, who have mixed citizenship status. Her husband is a naturalized U.S. citizen from Mexico, her son, born in Honduras, has protection from deportation through an Obama-era program for young people, and her daughter, Izaitheal Aguirre, 17, was born in the U.S.

In Los Angeles, the Rev. Fred Morris looked out over his congregation at the North Hills United Methodist Hispanic Mission and was relieved to see everyone who usually attends the early Sunday morning service. He had worried many would stay home, fearing Trump's threat of immigration sweeps.



## NATION

# O'Rourke raises \$3.6M in big drop from last quarter

By BRIAN SLODYKO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Beto O'Rourke raised just \$3.6 million in the second quarter, a dramatic drop that places him among a growing group of Democratic presidential hopefuls who are struggling to raise the cash needed for a credible White House run.

The former Texas congressman entered the race with a glowing cover story in *Vanity Fair* and the expectation that he would be a formidable contender. But the total his campaign announced Monday night was far less than the \$9.3 million he raised last quarter and placed him toward the back of the pack.

It's the latest sign that two distinct tiers are emerging in the primary — one that will have ample resources to build a national operation and get its message out and another forced to make difficult financial decisions and triage limited cash.

"Top-tier candidates will need to pull in eight-figure quarters to stay competitive and run effective campaigns on a national scale," said Dennis Cheng, who was the finance director for Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign. "The second quarter was about raising the bar and exceeding expectations."

The top five Democratic fundraisers collectively raised \$96 million this quarter, putting them within striking distance of the \$105 million raised by Donald

Trump and the Republican National Committee for the president's reelection. That has eased worries that lackluster totals last quarter were a sign the party would struggle to stockpile cash for the general election fight.

Pete Buttigieg led the second quarter field with \$24.8 million, a jaw-dropping sum to be raised by a candidate who entered the race months ago as the little-known mayor of South Bend, Ind. He was followed by former Vice President Joe Biden, who raised \$21.5 million. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, of Massachusetts, rebounded from a mediocre first quarter and came in third with \$19.1 million. Sen. Bernie Sanders, of Vermont, posted \$18 million, while Sen. Kamala Harris, of California, re-



CHERYL SENTER/AP

**Democratic presidential candidate and former U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke, shown at a Democrats Potluck Picnic in Manchester, N.H., on Saturday, has seen a steep decline in his fundraising.**

ported raising about \$12 million.

The outlook is grim for many others. Some candidates, like O'Rourke, took in less than they did last quarter. Others were essentially trading water.

O'Rourke has struggled to re-

claim the magic of his losing 2018 bid against Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, which brought him closer to winning statewide than any Democrat had in years. He set records in that race, raising more than \$80 million.

## Harris blasts, takes money from firm that represented Epstein

By BRIAN SLODYKO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Kamala Harris bemoaned the influence of the powerful and connected elite last Tuesday when she called on top Justice Department officials to recuse themselves from any matter related to Jeffrey Epstein. She said work done by their former law firm, which represented the financier accused of sexual abuse, "calls into question the integrity of our legal system."

Yet the same day, Harris' husband headlined a Chicago fundraiser for her presidential campaign that was hosted by six partners of that firm — Kirkland and Ellis — according to an invitation obtained by The Associated Press.

Harris, a California senator and Democratic presidential candidate, was one of several White House hopefuls to blast the handling of Epstein's case in Florida a decade ago, when his lawyers negotiated a deal with federal prosecutors that allowed him to avoid the possibility of years in prison. But her decision to move ahead with the fundraiser hosted by Kirkland and Ellis partners while criticizing the firm underscores the tension that can arise when a politician's rhetoric collides with their need to raise money to sustain a presidential campaign.

"If any connection with Kirkland and Ellis is a stain on [senior Justice Department officials], why isn't a connection with the law firm for the receipt of campaign contributions a stain on her own



CHERYL SENTER/AP

**Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., shown at a house party campaign event in Gifford, N.H., on Sunday, is being criticized for accepting campaign funds from a law firm that represented financier Jeffrey Epstein at the same time she has criticized former members of the firm.**

campaign?" said Paul S. Ryan, an attorney for the good government group Common Cause.

Ian Sams, a Harris spokesman, said there wasn't a problem with accepting the campaign contributions because the firm is big and the partners who hosted the fundraiser didn't work on Epstein's plea

agreement.

"The people involved in that case have not supported her campaign, and she wouldn't want that support anyway," Sams said.

The firm and the six partners named on the event invitation did not respond to requests for comment.

The Epstein case has roiled Washington this month after federal prosecutors announced fresh charges against the financier, who is accused of paying underage girls for massages and then molesting them at his homes in Palm Beach, Fla., and New York during the 2000s.

President Donald Trump's labor secretary, Alex Acosta, resigned on Friday over his handling of the case. As a U.S. attorney in Miami, Acosta met with Kirkland and Ellis lawyers and agreed to a deal that allowed Epstein to avoid federal trial by pleading guilty to state charges and serving 13 months in jail.

The new attention being paid to the case has also drawn attention to Attorney General William Barr and Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen, who both worked for Kirkland and Ellis. Harris, who is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said it's necessary that they recuse themselves from involvement in the matter to avoid even the "appearance of impropriety."

"In our democracy, no one — no matter how powerful or well-connected — is above the law. Yet Epstein's deal, secured by his lawyers at Kirkland and Ellis, calls into question the integrity of our legal system and undermines the public's confidence that justice will be served," Harris said in a statement released hours after the Chicago fundraiser.

Barr is recused from any review of a 2008 plea deal, but has said that he doesn't need to do so with the current case.

## DeVos says movement to boycott Israel has become 'pernicious threat'

Associated Press

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said Monday that a movement to boycott Israel has become a "pernicious threat" on college campuses and is fueled by bias against Jews.

Speaking at a Justice Department summit on anti-Semitism, DeVos issued a scathing rebuke of the BDS movement, a campaign led by pro-Palestine activists

calling for a boycott, divestment and sanctions of Israel over its treatment of Palestinians.

The movement has inspired activism at many U.S. universities but is often a source of tension, especially among students and professors who support Israel. DeVos said Monday that Israel has friends in the Education Department and that the BDS campaign is "one of the most pernicious

threats" of anti-Semitism on college campuses.

"These bullies claim they stand for human rights," she said. "But we all know that BDS stands for anti-Semitism."

DeVos, who is Christian, warned of an "alarming rise" in anti-Semitism but said President Donald Trump's administration is committed to stopping discrimination. She spent much of her speech defending

Israel, and she drew applause when she referenced Trump's 2017 decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, a move that drew condemnation from the United Nations.

"Peace in the Middle East begins with recognizing Israel's right to exist," DeVos said. "Israel is a light to the region, but we all know it's surrounded by jihadists who embrace evil."

## NATION

# Driver in Va. car attack sentenced to 2nd life term

By DENISE LAVOIE  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — An avowed white supremacist was sentenced to life in prison plus 419 years Monday for deliberately driving his car into a crowd of anti-racism protesters during a rally in Virginia, killing one woman and injuring dozens.

James Alex Fields Jr., 22, remained stoic as Circuit Court Judge Richard Moore formally imposed the recommendation of a state jury that convicted him in December of murder and malicious wounding charges for his actions in Charlottesville on Aug. 12, 2017.

Fields showed no visible emotion as victims of the car attack described severe physical and psychological injuries — broken bones, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depression — inflicted by Fields when he plowed his car into them.

"Hello, scum," said Jeanne "Star" Peterson, as she addressed Fields, seated about 20 feet from her at a table with his lawyers.

Peterson, who suffered a broken spine and a shattered right leg in the attack, told Fields he needs to stop "verbally abusing" his mother, referring to a recorded jail conversation in which Fields can be heard disparaging his mother.

Peterson said Fields' mother "tried her best" and it's not her fault her son "turned out to be a piece of feces."

Marcus Martin, who was captured in a dramatic photo as Fields' car struck him, said anger over what Fields did has permeated his life and affected his marriage.

"I blow up at the smallest things," Martin said, before ordering Fields to look at him.

"I want to talk to you, dude. I need you to look at me, buddy — look at me," he said. It was unclear whether Fields made eye contact with Martin.

He said closure will only come when he finds out "James Alex Fields is no longer on this Earth."

Martin was with several friends, including paragon and civil rights activist Heather Heyer, 32, when Fields rammed the crowd.

A photo of the car tossing Martin and other counterprotesters into the air won a Pulitzer Prize. In the photo, Martin wears a white shirt, khaki shorts, and red and white sneakers as he hangs above the ground behind the car.

Heyer's mother, Susan Bro, said in brief remarks to the judge that she hopes Fields finds "reclamation" but also hopes "he never sees the light of day outside of prison."

Last month, Fields received a life sentence on 29 federal hate crime charges.

In his remarks before sentencing, Moore acknowledged Fields' long history of mental health issues, beginning when he was institutionalized several times as a child. But he said Fields had received psychological treatment throughout his life and his mental health issues do not excuse his crimes.

The judge also said there was no evidence that Fields was being threatened or attacked when he drove into the counterprotesters.

"Mr. Fields, you had choices. We all have choices," Moore said. "You made the wrong ones and you caused great harm. ... You caused harm around the globe when people saw what you did."

Fields, an avowed white supremacist who kept a photo of Adolf Hitler on his bedside table, drove from his home in Maumee, Ohio, to attend the rally, which drew hundreds of white nationalists to Charlottesville to protest the planned removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. The event also drew counterprotesters who demonstrated against the white nationalists.

Violent skirmishes between the two sides prompted police to declare an unlawful assembly and to order the groups to disband before the rally could even begin. Later that day, Fields plowed his car into a crowd of counterprotesters.



KELLEY GANDURSKI, CHICAGO ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL/AP

An alligator in a public lagoon at Humboldt Park, Chicago, has been captured and removed by a gator expert from Florida, police said.

## Fla. expert captures elusive Chicago gator

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Police said an expert from Florida captured an elusive alligator in a Chicago public lagoon.

Chicago police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said the Humboldt Park gator was caught humanely early Tuesday and is in good health.

The reptile, nicknamed "Chance the Snapper," was first

spotted last week and photos soon started showing up online. Investigators don't know why the animal, which is at least 4 feet long, was on the loose in Chicago.

Frank Robb, of St. Augustine, Fla., arrived Sunday and assessed the park and lagoon. Sections of the park were closed to the public Monday on Robb's recommendation to reduce the noise and kerfuffle that could keep the animal in hiding.

# SpaceX: Leaky valve caused crew capsule to explode in test

By MARCIA DUNN  
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A leaky valve caused a SpaceX crew capsule to explode during a ground test in April, destroying the spacecraft and dealing a blow to the company's effort to launch astronauts.

The company announced the preliminary results of its accident investigation Monday.

SpaceX's crew Dragon capsule had just returned, minus astronauts, from a successful test

flight to the International Space Station and was undergoing a ground test April 20 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The abort system thrusters were 100 milliseconds away from firing when the spacecraft exploded and was destroyed.

Hans Koenigsmann, a SpaceX vice president, said a check valve allowed a slug of liquid oxidizer to leak into the high-pressure abort system. The titanium valve ignited, leading to the blast.

The check valves will be replaced with more reliable disks,

according to Koenigsmann.

The valve failure was "something that we didn't expect and a great lesson for us," he said. "My emphasis is really on making sure this is safe."

Koenigsmann said the repairs to other capsules can be carried out alongside other work. But while it's not impossible, "it's getting increasingly difficult" to fly astronauts on the capsule by year's end, he told reporters.

He declined to give a tentative launch date for the test flight with astronauts, adding that more is-

sues could crop up in the coming months.

Kathy Lueders, NASA's commercial crew program manager, also was reluctant to discuss potential launch dates for SpaceX — or even Boeing. The companies had been shooting to launch astronauts to the space station by the end of the year.

Boeing has yet to conduct a test spaceflight of its Starliner capsule without anyone on board; late summer is a possibility.

"I hope it's this year" that astronaut flights resume from Cape

Canaveral, Lueders said. "But we're going to fly when it's the right time and when we know that we'll be flying our crews safely."

NASA astronauts have not launched from the U.S. since the space shuttle program ended in 2011. NASA has been paying tens of millions of dollars per seat on Russian Soyuz spacecraft to get astronauts to and from the space station.

SpaceX has been launching space station supplies for NASA since 2012. The next scheduled liftoff is Sunday evening.

# Police: 1 person killed, officer shot at Baltimore meth clinic; suspect is dead

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — A man demanding methadone opened fire at a Baltimore addiction clinic Monday, killing one person and wounding a police sergeant before he was fatally shot by police, authorities said.

Baltimore Police Commissioner Michael Harrison said at a news conference that the gunman

had gone into the clinic seeking the drug that helps control opioid cravings and withdrawal symptoms. It can be given only at government-regulated clinics.

The shooting was reported shortly after 7 a.m. and was captured on video by the body cameras of the officers who responded to the clinic, Harrison said. The man was buzzed into the clinic,

and then the situation escalated.

"When our officers arrived, they were met by civilians outside who told them there was a man inside with a gun who had recently fired shots inside the building," Harrison said.

The commissioner said responding officers "attempted to deescalate the situation many times. However, the suspect

began firing at them.

"As the suspect fired upon our officer, he returned gunfire but was struck by the suspect's rounds."

The injured sergeant was identified as Billy Shiflett, 48, a 25-year veteran of the force.

He was wearing a bulletproof vest but the bullet struck his lower abdomen.

Harrison said the sergeant underwent surgery and is in serious but stable condition.

The gunman was pronounced dead at the hospital.

A female employee at the clinic also was injured and expected to survive, Harrison said.

It's unclear if a man found fatally shot inside the clinic was a patient.

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## NATION

# No charges for officer in 'I can't breathe' case

By MICHAEL BALSAMO,  
MICHAEL R. SISAK  
AND TOM HAYS  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Federal prosecutors won't bring civil rights charges against a New York City police officer in the 2014 chokehold death of Eric Garner, a decision made by Attorney General William Barr and announced one day before the five-year anniversary of his death, officials said.

The announcement of the decision not to bring charges against Officer Daniel Pantaleo comes a day before the statute of limitations was set to expire in the case that produced the words "I can't breathe" — among Garner's final words — as a rallying cry among protesters of the police treatment of black suspects.

"The evidence here does not support Officer Daniel Pantaleo or any other officer with a federal civil rights violation," said Richard Donoghue, the U.S. attorney for eastern New York. "Even if we could prove that Officer Pantaleo's hold of Mr. Garner constituted unreasonable force, we would still have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Officer Pantaleo acted willfully in violation of the law."

Gwen Carr, Garner's mother, and the Rev. Al Sharpton said they were outraged and heartbroken. Sharpton called for Pantaleo's dismissal from the NYPD.

"We are here with heavy hearts, because the DOJ has failed us," said Carr, who has become a vocal advocate of police reform in the years since her son's death.

"Five years ago, my son said 'I can't breathe' 11 times. Today, we can't breathe."

A senior Justice Department official told The Associated Press that prosecutors watched video of the confrontation "countless" times but weren't convinced Pantaleo acted willfully in the seconds after the chokehold was applied.

There were two sets of recommendations made. The Eastern District of New York recommended no charges, but Justice Department civil rights prosecutors in Washington recommended charging the officer. Barr made the ultimate decision, the official said.

The official said Barr watched the video himself and got several briefings.

Prosecutors had to examine Pantaleo's state of mind, and it would be a "high standard" to prove the case to a jury, the official said. Prosecutors also considered whether he violated NYPD's policy on chokeholds.

Officers were attempting to arrest Garner on charges he sold loose, untaxed cigarettes outside a Staten Island convenience store. He refused to be handcuffed, and officers took him down.

Garner is heard on bystander video crying out "I can't breathe" at least 11 times before he falls unconscious. He later died.

"I can't breathe" became a rallying cry for police reform activists, coming amid a stretch of other deaths of black men at the hands of white officers. Garner was black; Pantaleo is white. Pro-

tests erupted around the country, and police reform became a national discussion.

A state grand jury had also refused to indict the officer on criminal charges.

In the years since Garner's death, the New York Police Department made a series of sweeping changes on how it relates to the communities it serves, ditching a policy of putting rookie cops in higher crime precincts in favor of a neighborhood policing model that revolves around community officers tasked with getting to know New Yorkers.

In the years since Garner's death, Pantaleo has remained on the job but not in the field, and activists have decried his paycheck that included union-negotiated raises.

## Trial eyes gerrymandering after justices declined

By GARY D. ROBERTSON  
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — A partisan gerrymandering trial began Monday in North Carolina, where election advocacy groups and Democrats hope state courts will favor them in the kind of political mapmaking dispute that the U.S. Supreme Court just declared is not the business of the federal courts.

Lawyers for Common Cause, the state Democratic Party and more than 30 registered Democratic voters who sued contend Republican lawmakers so etched politics into the state House and Senate district lines that the constitutional rights of Democratic voters were violated.

Republicans counter that the Democrats are simply asking courts to use "raw political power" to take redistricting responsibilities from the legislature.

The trial commenced less than three weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a separate case involving North Carolina's congressional map that it's not the job of federal courts to decide if boundaries are politically unfair. But Chief Justice John Roberts also wrote in the majority opinion that state courts could have a role to play in applying standards set in state laws and constitutions.

The plaintiffs in the North Carolina case are seeking just that, saying 95 out of the 170 House and Senate districts drawn in 2017 violate the state constitution's free speech and association protections for them. They also say the boundaries violate a constitutional provision stating "all elections shall be free" because the maps are rigged to predetermine electoral outcomes and guarantee Republican control of the legislature.

A partisan gerrymandering lawsuit in Pennsylvania citing a similar provision in that state's constitution was successful.

"State courts do not need to sit idly by while people's constitu-



GERRY BROOME/AP

A districts map is shown as a Wake County Superior Court panel presides over the trial of Common Cause, et al. v. Lewis, et al at the Campbell University School of Law in Raleigh, N.C., on Monday.

tional rights are being violated just because the U.S. Supreme Court refused to act," plaintiffs' attorney Stanton Jones told a three-judge panel in Raleigh. His clients want new maps drawn for the 2020 elections.

Despite a large party fundraising advantage during the 2018 cycle and candidates in nearly every legislative race, Democrats could not obtain a majority in either the House or Senate — a failure Jones attributes to the skewed boundaries.

But the Republicans' chief attorney, Phil Strach, said in his opening statement that the Democratic Party's own scoring system shows the party could win majorities under the challenged plans — a contention that one Democratic lawmaker rejected in testimony later Monday. Democrats currently hold every House

seat in Wake and Mecklenburg counties — the state's two largest counties by population — but they are still challenging every district in those counties.

Democrats did pick up state legislative seats in 2018 under House and Senate maps that had been slightly adjusted compared with the 2017 plans. Republicans lost their veto-proof control last year but still hold majorities. Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper now has more leverage at the General Assembly, but by law he cannot veto redistricting plans.

Strach says state courts and the constitution already have put limits on redistricting that discourage egregious partisanship while allowing for some consideration of partisan advantage and protecting incumbents.

"There is no way to know what a fair map looks like," Strach said.

"That would require the court to decide essentially how many Republicans and Democrats should be in the legislature."

Jones said his clients plan to use files from Tom Hoefler, a now-deceased GOP redistricting consultant who helped draw the 2017 maps, to "move beyond a doubt that partisan gain was his singular objective."

Hoefler's estranged daughter alerted Common Cause to the existence of his computer files, which were later subpoenaed. Stephanie Hoefler was deposed before the trial to describe how she discovered the files.

The Republicans' lawyers said the Hoefler files the plaintiffs want to use don't prove the GOP legislators who ultimately approved the maps were led by excessive partisanship.

## Feds again miss tribal safety bill deadline

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — For the second month in a row, U.S. officials tasked with carrying out federal public safety policy for tribes missed a deadline to provide input on legislation to curb violence against Native American women.

Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., had set a July 8 deadline for officials from the Interior and Justice departments to offer positions and guidance on a slate of bills that aim to stem domestic violence, homicides and disappearances of Native Americans on tribal lands.

A week after the new deadline passed, a spokesman for Sen. Tom Udall said Monday that Justice officials had yet to provide positions on the legislation, while the Interior only provided "partial comment." Udall, D-N.M., is a co-chairman of the committee with Hoeven.

An Indian Affairs committee spokesman said in response to inquiries from The Associated Press that the Interior's guidance on bills had been submitted late, though she did not say which day. She and Interior officials would not release the documents that had been sent to the committee.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Justice Department told the AP late Monday that the department is working as quickly as possible to provide positions on the bills and had given a status update to the committee chairman's office.

In May, U.S. Attorney General William Barr visited Alaska, where tribal representatives told him about the lack of law enforcement in villages and slow response times to calls.

## NATION

# Report: Most attackers made prior threats

By COLLEEN LONG  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One-third of the attackers who terrorized schools, houses of worship or businesses nationwide last year had a history of serious domestic violence, two-thirds had mental health issues and nearly all had made threatening or concerning communications that worried others before they struck, according to a U.S. Secret Service report on mass attacks.

The Secret Service studied 27 incidents in which a total of 91 people were killed and 107 more injured in public spaces in 2018. Among them were the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., where 17 people were killed and 17 others injured and the fatal attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

The report analyzed the timing, weapons, locations and stressors of the attacker, plus events that led up to the incident, in an effort to better understand how such attacks unfold and how to prevent



Memorial crosses stand in tribute to those killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., in 2018. Most of those who attacked public institutions last year had made threatening or concerning communications, the Secret Service says.

them. Members of the Secret Service National Threat Assess-

ment Center, which did the study, briefed police, public safety and

school officials at a seminar Tuesday.

"We want the community to know prevention is everyone's responsibility," said Lina Alathari, the center's chief. "Not just law enforcement."

Other incidents examined included a man who drove a truck into a Planned Parenthood clinic in New Jersey, injuring three, and a man who killed two at a law firm and then one at a psychologist's office in June. Criteria for the study included an incident in which three or more people were injured in a public place.

Most attackers were male, ranging in age from 15 to 64. The domestic violence history often included serious violence. While 67% had mental health issues, only 44% had a diagnosis or known treatment for the issue.

Most of the attacks occurred midweek. Only one was on a Saturday.

As for motive, more than half of the attackers had a grievance against a spouse or family member or a personal or workplace dispute. Also, 22% had no known

motive. In nearly half the cases, the attacker apparently selected the target in advance.

Alathari and her colleagues want communities to be aware of concerning behavior and these trends so officials have something to look out for.

The Secret Service center is tasked with researching, training and sharing information on the prevention of targeted violence, using the agency's knowledge gleaned from years of watching possible targets that may or may not be out to assassinate the president.

Alathari said her team is working on a new report on school shootings and how to prevent them, and investigating averted attacks to try to figure out why someone didn't follow through.

"There is not a single solution," Alathari said. "The more that we're out there, training, the more we're out there with the community ... the more we share information ... I think it will help really alleviate and, hopefully, prevent even one incident from happening. One is too many."



Colin Crawford and Patrick Sweeney, with Re/Max, help build a playhouse as part of the Habitat for Humanity project.

## New playhouses a pleasant surprise for military kids

The Worcester (Mass.) Telegram & Gazette

WORCESTER, Mass. — When 3-year-old Adrienne Casaubon, of Leominster, Mass., saw the playhouse built for her, she rushed inside, shut the door and settled in as if it were her new home.

The 5-foot-tall playhouse, built in the plaza at the Mercantile Center in downtown Worcester, was one of 12 constructed for families with a record of military service. It was part of an initiative by Habitat for Humanity MetroWest-Greater Worcester.

The plaza was taken over on

June 28 by amateur builders from local businesses who constructed the playhouses. Joseph S. Townsend, development director of Habitat for Humanity MetroWest-Greater Worcester, said the project involves dozens of work teams led by craftsmen experienced in building for Habitat for Humanity.

The walls and other sections of the houses were pre-cut, and the volunteers pieced them together, painted them and added solar panels and lights.

Later in the day, families showed up and were presented



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY GREEN, THE WORCESTER (MASS.) TELEGRAM & GAZETTE/AP

Adrienne Casaubon, 3, of Leominster, Mass., checks out her new playhouse during a recent Habitat for Humanity event for veterans' families in Worcester, Mass.

**'This is amazing. She had no idea.'**

**Matt Casaubon**

Army veteran who saw his daughter Adrienne receive a playhouse at a recent Habitat For Humanity event

with their finished playhouses.

Adrienne was delighted, and her parents were thrilled.

"This is amazing," said her father, Matt Casaubon, as he and his wife, Maryellen, watched their daughter inspect every part

of the house. "She had no idea," he said.

The houses were kept secret from the children, but the parents were clued in ahead of time.

Matt Casaubon served in the Army with the 25th Infantry Division out of Hawaii. He is a recent graduate of Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts with a degree in human services and is now in graduate school.

Families were presented with their houses one at a time. The reaction of the children was the same.

Robert Ushinski, an Air Force

veteran of the Korean War, was with his granddaughter, River England, and his daughter, Michelle England. River's house was built by a team from Bay State Bank. The house was perfect for River, but when Benji the Dog, Bay State's mascot, tried to join her, he was too tall.

Townsend said the event not only creates something special for families of veterans, it gives volunteers a chance to get to know each other and learn skills. He said he hopes some of the volunteers will later volunteer for Habitat for Humanity's programs.

## WORLD

# Protests challenge China's Hong Kong role

BY YANAN WANG AND ALICE FUNG  
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Colin Wong has come to know the sting of pepper spray well.

After more than a month of demonstrations in Hong Kong's sweltering heat, memories of the burning sensation are a constant reminder of what protesters call an excessive use of force by police. Each time he felt the now-familiar sting, Wong, 18, was more determined to not back down.

"Every time we come out and stand up, problems continue to arise afterward," Wong said, referring to the protesters' dissatisfaction with responses from law enforcement and Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam. "Trust in the whole Hong Kong government is bankrupt."

What began as a protest against an extradition bill has ballooned into a fundamental challenge to the way Hong Kong is governed — and the role of the Chinese government in the city's affairs. "Hong Kong is not China" has become a refrain of the movement in what is a Chinese territory but with its own laws and a separate legal system under a "one country, two systems" framework.

Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets in Hong Kong in three marches last month to oppose the extradition legislation, which would have allowed suspects to be sent to face trial in mainland China, where critics say their legal rights would be threatened.

In recent weeks, the demonstrations have also included two smaller protests led by nativist-leaning groups against an

influx of mainland Chinese into the city of 7.4 million people. All of it traces back to an underlying mistrust of the Hong Kong and Beijing authorities, which fuels calls for a more responsive government that protesters believe democracy would bring.

When Hong Kong, a former British colony, was returned to China in 1997, its residents were promised certain freedoms not afforded to mainland Chinese. Opponents of the extradition bill argued that a hallmark of the "one country, two systems" framework — Hong Kong's independent judicial system — would be compromised under the proposed legislation.

Lam initially maintained that the bill would move forward, but has since declared it indefinitely suspended and "dead." The protests, however, have continued unabated, as demonstrators call for

Lam's resignation, the legislation's formal withdrawal and an investigation into police tactics. They also demand that protesters not be punished — as the leaders of the pro-democracy "Umbrella Movement" demonstrations in 2014 were.

Across these issues, protesters have increasingly held up signs expressing a broader wish — a yearning for greater democracy.

Slogans such as "Free Hong Kong" and "Democracy Now" have become more widely used, said Antony Dapiran, a Hong Kong-based lawyer and author of a book about the city's recent protest history who has been attending the protests since they began.

"People are fundamentally saying that they don't trust the mainland Communist government," he said.

## Von der Leyen seeks to secure EU's top post at parliament

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Outgoing German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen on Tuesday set out her political objectives on a greener, gender-equal Europe where the rule of law continues to hold sway in an attempt to woo enough legislators at the European Parliament to secure the job of European Commission president.



Von der Leyen

The Christian Democrat of the European People's Party was seeking to become the first woman to hold perhaps the most important post in the 28-nation European Union by gathering the requisite 374 votes out of 747 in a secret vote later in the day.

Von der Leyen was a last-minute candidate to succeed Jean-Claude Juncker that EU leaders agreed to as part of a package of top jobs that were decided on early this month.

Under the package, the free-market liberal Renew Europe group got Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel as council president and the Socialists won the top parliament job. France's

Christine Lagarde was put forward as head of the European Central Bank.

Von der Leyen told lawmakers in Strasbourg on Tuesday that the gender element will be essential if she is elected commission president overseeing a team of 28 commissioners.

"I will ensure full gender equality in my College of Commissioners. If member states do not propose enough female commissioners, I will not hesitate to ask for new names," she said.

Pointing out that since its inception in 1958, less than 20% of commissioners had been women, she said: "We represent half of our population. We want our fair share."

If the parliament rejects her candidature, the whole package of political appointments could fall apart like a house of cards and throw the EU into a constitutional crisis.

The parliamentarians have not so much objected to von der Leyen personally as voiced their anger that they were sidelined in the appointment process. Their candidates for the commission post, arguably the most important of all the jobs, were all rejected by the EU leaders.

Officials in the von der Leyen camp acknowledge that the vote will be a cliffhanger but say that she will scrape by.



ANUPAM NATH/AP

Villagers travel on boats near a submerged house in Burha Burhi village east of Gauhati, India, on Monday after flooding and landslides that are affecting the lives of millions in the region.

## South Asia flooding wreaks havoc

Associated Press

GAUHAATI, India — Monsoon flooding and landslides continued to cause havoc in South Asia on Tuesday, with the death toll rising to 78 in Nepal and authorities in neighboring northeastern India battling to provide relief to more than 4 million people in Assam state, officials said.

Nepal's National Emergency Operation Center said more than 40,000 soldiers and police officers were using helicopters and land means to rush food, tents and medicine to thousands of people

hit by annual flooding. Rescuers also were searching for 32 missing people.

In Assam, officials said floodwaters have killed at least 19 people and brought misery to some 4.5 million.

More than 85,000 people have taken shelter in 187 state government-run camps in 30 of the state's 33 districts, the state disaster management authority said in a statement.

Atitika Sultana, a district magistrate, said a flooded river washed away a 490-foot stretch of Assam's border road with Ban-

gladesh, flooding 70 villages on the Indian side.

Around 80% of Assam's Kaziranga National Park, home to the endangered one-horn rhinoceros, has been flooded by the Brahmaputra river, which flows along the sanctuary, forest officer Jutika Borah said.

After causing flooding and landslides in Nepal, three rivers have been overflowing in India and submerging parts of eastern Bihar state, killing at least 24 people, said Pratata Amrit, a state government official.

## Report finds government restrictions on religion increasing worldwide

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Government restrictions on religion have increased markedly in many places around the world, not only in authoritarian countries but also in many of Europe's democracies, according to a report surveying 198 countries that was released Monday.

The report released by the Pew Research Center, covering developments through 2017, also seeks to document the scope of religion-based harassment and violence. Regarding the world's two largest religions, it said Christians were harassed in 143 countries and Muslims in 140.

This was Pew's 10th annual Report on Global Restrictions on Religion. It said 52

governments, including those in Russia and China, impose high levels of restrictions on religion, up from 40 governments in 2007.

It said 56 countries in 2017 were experiencing social hostilities involving religion, up from 39 in 2007.

Pew said the Middle East and North Africa, of the five major regions it studied,

had the highest level of government restrictions on religion, followed by the Asia-Pacific region.

However, it said the biggest increase during the 2007-17 period was in Europe, where the number of countries placing restrictions on religious dress — including burgas and face veils worn by some Muslim women — rose from five to 20.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## County has high hopes for marine sanctuary

**MD** LA PLATA — Officials in a Maryland county where a historic ship graveyard was recently designated a national marine sanctuary hope the recognition will also bring economic benefits.

Kellie Hinkle, chief of the tourism division for the Charles County Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism, told The Daily Record the newly dubbed Mallow's Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary could see about a 20 percent increase in tourism visitors. She said hotel occupancy and restaurant traffic will also likely increase.

The marine sanctuary designation was announced last week. The site about 40 miles south of Washington contains more than 100 abandoned steamships.

## Man breaks state spearfishing record

**UT** TOOELE — A Utah man has set a state spearfishing record.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources announced Jacob Hansen, 39, of Tooele, broke the state record for spearfishing a tiger muskie fish on June 13 at Fish Lake in southern Utah. His record-breaking fish is 51 inches long and weighs 32 pounds.

Hansen said he spotted the record-breaking fish while teaching his daughter how to spearfish at a family reunion on Fish Lake.

Faith Jolley, with the DWR, said the previous record was set in 2013 at Fish Lake when someone caught a 46-inch, 28-pound tiger muskie.

## Bordering states fired up over hot peppers

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — The long-simmering battle between New Mexico and Colorado over which state grows the best chile is heating up.

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham went on the offensive after Colorado Gov. Jared Polis proclaimed on Twitter that hot peppers from Pueblo were the best and would be stocked across a four-state region by a well-known grocery store chain. Polis went on to say stores in Lujan Grisham's state would be supplied with inferior New Mexico chile.

Lujan Grisham fired back, saying New Mexico chile is "the greatest in the world" and she's ready for a chile duel.

## Man sentenced for having banned animals

**CO** GRAND JUNCTION — A man has been sentenced for possessing prohibited, state-protected animals at his private hunting ranch in Colorado.

The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel reported Saturday that Michael Gates, 34, pleaded guilty June 19 to illegally possessing and importing exotic sheep species. He received a one-year deferred judgment sentence. Authorities said the Vernal, Utah, resident procured the



JOEL MARTINEZ, THE (McAllen, Texas) MONITOR/AP

## Where all the cool kids go

Mavis Carrillo, right, enjoys playing in the cool water on a hot south Texas day at Zinnia Splash Park in McAllen on Sunday.

animals for clients to hunt at his ranch near Dinosaur, 295 miles west of Denver. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife department said the animals included Mouflon sheep hybrids, Texas Dall sheep and Painted Desert sheep.

## Underwater music event has songs in right Keys

**FL** BIG PINE KEY — Divers and snorkelers gathered underwater to listen to music and coral reef protection messages in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

The Lower Keys Underwater Music Festival was staged Saturday at Looe Key Reef, about 6 miles south of Big Pine Key. The event encourages environmentally responsible diving and preservation of the world's coral reefs.

Music and public service announcements were featured in the four-hour broadcast by a local radio station that was delivered underwater via speakers suspended beneath boats above the reef. Divers and snorkelers enjoyed songs including the Beatles' "Yellow Submarine," Jimmy Buffett's "Fins" and the theme from "The Little Mermaid."

## Group opening pantry to help feed pets

**WV** CLARKSBURG — A West Virginia organization is helping to feed hungry

## THE CENSUS

# \$10K

The amount of money a utility company has given a husband and wife, contingent on the couple moving to Rutland, Vt. Britt and Matt Britt were among the finalists for Green Mountain Power's house giveaway last year. They are now the first to take advantage of the utility's cash consolation prize offer to relocate to Rutland.

The Rutland Herald reported Britt is from North Carolina but lived in Rutland from 2015 to 2017. She said she sought "the small-town feel" and now she has it.

pets and provide other necessities with its pet pantry.

The Exponent Telegram reported the Progressive Women's Association in Clarksburg is starting Peppy's Pet Pantry to help people who have trouble affording their pets. Association assistant director Kelli Hagerman said the group wants to make it possible for people to keep their pets.

She said the pantry will have dog and cat food, kitty litter and accessories such as leashes, bowls, collars and toys.

Hagerman said the pantry has received items from local humane societies and individuals as well as monetary contributions.

## 2 king penguin chicks born at zoo on display

**NE** OMAHA — Two king penguin chicks that hatched in March are on display at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium.

The first chick hatched March

14 and now weighs 26 pounds. The second hatched March 16 and weighs 32 pounds.

Their genders are not yet known.

The chicks will remain in a segregated "chick pen" in the Antarctic penguin habitat until they molt their nonwaterproof down feathers.

It also allows the chicks to get acclimated to the habitat and the other penguins.

## Anglers happy, experts puzzled over walleye

**OH** PORT CLINTON — Experts are puzzled over the explosion of the walleye population in Lake Erie, but anglers pursuing Ohio's most popular fish couldn't be happier.

Fisheries experts at the Ohio Division of Wildlife said the bountiful supply of walleye in recent years is difficult to explain, but the \$800 million state sport fishing industry has benefited.

The Plain Dealer reported that

after a decades-old roller coaster ride with the walleye population, the number caught in the U.S. waters of Lake Erie increased from 417,000 in 2011 to almost 2 million in 2018.

Ohio banned commercial walleye fishing in the late 1960s to allow the Lake Erie population to recover.

With the popularity and economic value of sport fishing for walleye, it is unlikely that will change.

## Thief steals 12K lottery tickets valued at \$360K

**VA** STAFFORD — Authorities in Virginia said a suspect stole more than 12,000 lottery tickets valued at up to \$360,000 from a convenience store.

The Stafford County Sheriff's Office said the suspect broke into a Fas-Mart convenience store Saturday morning and stole the scratch-off lottery tickets and 170 cartons of cigarettes.

The suspect was caught on security cameras covering up with a dark hoodie.

Police said deputy Samantha Whitt responded to an alarm after the suspect smashed through a window, but when she arrived the suspect was gone.

From wire reports

## FACES

# There be DRAGONS

‘Game of Thrones’ shatters Emmys record with 32 nominations for final season; HBO rakes in 137 overall

RICHAUD SHOTWELL, INVISION/AP

BY LYNN ELBER  
Associated Press

HBO’s “Game of Thrones” slashed its way to a record-setting 32 Emmy nominations Tuesday for its eighth and final season, leading HBO back to dominance over Netflix, the streaming service that bumped it last year from atop the increasingly crowded television heap.

The bloodthirsty saga’s total eclipsed the all-time series record of 27 nods earned by “NYPD Blue” in 1994.

If “Game of Thrones” successfully defends its best drama series title and claims a fourth trophy, it will join the quartet of most-honored dramas that includes “Hill Street Blues,” “L.A. Law,” “The West Wing” and “Mad Men.”

A wealth of acting nominations for the cast and guest stars, including the show’s sole previous winner, Peter Dinklage, helped boost “Game of Thrones” to a new record of 160 overall total nominations — breaking its own previous record of 128.

Series star Emilia Clarke’s decision to seek a best actress nomination after a series of supporting actress bids paid off. She’s competing in a category that’s notable for its diversity, including past winner Viola Davis for “How to Get Away with Murder” and repeat nominee Sandra Oh for “Killing Eve,” who has another chance to become the first actress of Asian descent to win the trophy. She lost last year to Claire Foy for “The Crown.”

HBO earned a whopping 137 nominations overall. “Chernobyl” and “Barry” also boosted the cable network’s total.

Netflix ended HBO’s 17-year reign last year to win the most nominations but was bumped to second this year with 117.

NBC was a distant third with 88 nods, a figure that led all broadcast networks. CBS had 43 and ABC 26.

Last year’s best comedy series, “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,” led the comedy pack with 20 bids, including for its star and defending champion Rachel Brosnahan. She’ll vie with Emmy record-holder Julia Louis-Dreyfus of “Veep,” who didn’t compete in last year’s awards because her breast cancer treatment delayed production of the political satire.

## Partial list of nominees for 2019 Primetime Emmy Awards

**Comedy Series:** “Barry”; “Fleabag”; “The Good Place”; “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”; “Russian Doll”; “Schitt’s Creek”; “Veep”

**Drama Series:** “Better Call Saul”; “Bodyguard”; “Game of Thrones”; “Killing Eve”; “Ozark”; “Pose”; “Succession”; “This Is Us”

**Actor, Drama Series:** Jason Bateman, “Ozark”; Sterling K. Brown, “This Is Us”; Kit Harington, “Game of Thrones”; Bob Odenkirk, “Better Call Saul”; Billy Porter, “Pose”; Milo Ventimiglia, “This Is Us”

**Actress, Drama Series:** Emilia Clarke, “Game of Thrones”; Robin Wright, “House of Cards”; Jodie Comer, “Killing Eve”; Sandra Oh, “Killing Eve”; Laura Linney, “Ozark”; Viola Davis, “How to Get Away with Murder”; Mandy Moore, “This Is Us”

**Supporting Actor, Drama Series:** Jonathan Banks, “Better Call Saul”; Giancarlo Esposito, “Better Call Saul”; Alfie Allen, “Game of Thrones”; Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, “Game of Thrones”; Peter Dinklage, “Game of Thrones”; Michael Kelly, “House of Cards”; Chris Sullivan, “This Is Us”

**Supporting Actress, Drama Series:** Gwendoline Christie, “Game of Thrones”; Julia Garner, “Ozark”; Lena Headey, “Game of Thrones”; Fiona Shaw, “Killing Eve”; Sophie Turner, “Game of Thrones”; Maizie Williams, “Game of Thrones”

**Actor, Comedy Series:** Anthony Anderson, “black-ish”; Don Cheadle, “Black Monday”; Ted Danson, “The Good Place”; Michael Douglas, “The Kominsky Method”; Bill Hader, “Barry”; Eugene Levy, “Schitt’s Creek”

**Actress, Comedy Series:** Rachel Brosnahan, “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”; Julia Louis-Dreyfus, “Veep”; Natasha Lyonne, “Russian Doll”; Phoebe Waller-Bridge, “Fleabag”; Christina Applegate, “Dead to Me”; Catherine O’Hara, “Schitt’s Creek”

Louis-Dreyfus has a shot to break her tie with Cloris Leachman for most Emmys won by a performer (eight) if she wins again.

“Veep” received nine nominations for its final season, a warm farewell and one that wasn’t to be “The Big Bang Theory,” the long-running sitcom that failed to capture a best comedy nod or any fun its actors. The show has company in other hit sitcoms of the past: Neither “Friends” nor “Frasier” were

**Supporting Actor, Comedy Series:** Anthony Carigan, “Barry”; Stephen Root, “Barry”; Henry Winkler, “Barry”; Alan Arkin, “The Kominsky Method”; Tony Shalhoub, “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”; Tony Hale, “Veep”

**Supporting Actress, Comedy Series:** Sarah Goldberg, “Barry”; Sian Clifford, “Fleabag”; Olivia Colman, “Fleabag”; Betty Gilpin, “GLW”; Alex Borstein, “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”; Marin Hinkle, “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”; Kate McKinnon, “Saturday Night Live”; Anna Chlumsky, “Veep”

**Limited Series:** “Chernobyl”; “Escape at Dannemora”; “Fosse/Verdon”; “When They See Us”; “Sharp Objects”

**Actor, Limited Series or Movie:** Mahershala Ali, “True Detective”; Benicio Del Toro, “Escape at Dannemora”; Jared Harris, “Chernobyl”; Jharrel Jerome, “When They See Us”; Sam Rockwell, “Fosse/Verdon”

**Supporting Actor, Limited Series or Movie:** Stellan Skarsgård, “Chernobyl”; Paul Dano, “Escape at Dannemora”; Ben Whishaw, “A Very English Scandal”; Asante Blackk, “When They See Us”; John Leguizamo, “When They See Us”; Michael K. Williams, “When They See Us”

**Actress, Limited Series or Movie:** Amy Adams, “Sharp Objects”; Patricia Arquette, “Escape at Dannemora”; Anjuri Ellis, “When They See Us”; Joey King, “The Act”; Niecy Nash, “When They See Us”; Michelle Williams, “Fosse/Verdon”

**Supporting Actress, Limited Series or Movie:** Patricia Arquette, “The Act”; Marsha Stephanie Blake, “When They See Us”; Patricia Clarkson, “Sharp Objects”; Vera Farmiga, “When They See Us”; Margaret Qualley, “Fosse/Verdon”; Emily Watson, “Chernobyl”

nominated for best series for their final year, both in 2004.

Other top nominees include the nuclear disaster miniseries “Chernobyl” with 19 nominations and “Saturday Night Live” with 18. “When They See Us,” the miniseries that dramatized the Central Park Five case and its aftermath, received 16 bids. The Emmy Awards will air Sept. 22 on Fox. The host has yet to be announced.

## Jay-Z, Blue Ivy appear on new Beyonce album

Beyonce’s new album inspired by “The Lion King” features collaborations with husband Jay-Z and daughter Blue Ivy Carter.

Beyonce announced Tuesday that “The Lion King: The Gift,” which will be released Friday, also includes songs with Kendrick Lamar, Childish Gambino, Pharrell, Tierra Whack and Jessie Reyez.

In the new version of “The Lion King,” in theaters Friday, Beyonce voices the character of Nala. Beyonce curated and executive produced “The Lion King: The Gift,” which also features collaborations with Burna Boy, Wizkid, Tiwa Savage and 070 Shake.

Jay-Z appears on the song “Mood 4 Eve.” Blue Ivy is featured on “Brown Skin Girl.”

## Fox 2000 chief, team join Sony Pictures

Elizabeth Gabler, whose Fox 2000 produced acclaimed literary adaptations like “Life of Pi” and “Hidden Figures” before being axed in the aftermath of the Walt Disney Co. acquisition, has found a new home at Sony Pictures.

Sony on Monday announced a new production deal with the former Fox 2000 president and her entire Fox 2000 team. In the new multiyear venture, Gabler will develop and make movies for the studio beginning later this summer. The partnership also includes HarperCollins, whose catalog Gabler will mine for projects.

Fox 2000 had been expected to be retained by Disney after its acquisition of 20th Century Fox. But earlier this year, the Fox label became one of the most high-profile casualties of the deal.

## Graphic scene removed from ‘13 Reasons’ finale

Netflix has decided to remove a graphic suicide scene from the Season 1 finale of its show “13 Reasons Why” as the series prepares to launch its third season.

Show creator Brian Yorkey says in a statement on Twitter the intent in portraying the suicide in such graphic detail was to “make sure no one would ever wish to emulate it.”

But the producers have heard concerns from mental health experts and decided, along with the streaming service, to re-edit it.

## Jennifer Lopez returns for makeup concert

Jennifer Lopez kept her word to fans who were disappointed when a power outage in New York City forced her to postpone her concert over the weekend.

Lopez returned to the stage Monday at Madison Square Garden, saying she was going to celebrate “no matter what.” She called it an “amazing night.” Lopez’s show was cut short on July 13 when problems at a substation led parts of Manhattan without electricity.

From The Associated Press

# Stripes

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market




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Lt. Col. Sean Klrnjek, Army commander  
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander  
Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations

## EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
leonard.terry@stars.com  
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
reid.robert@stars.com  
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content  
croley.tina@stars.com  
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
moores.sean@stars.com  
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital  
gromelski.joe@stars.com

## BUREAU STAFF

**Europe/Mideast**  
Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
slavin.eric@stars.com  
+490631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

**Pacific**  
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
kidd.aaron@stars.com  
+81-452.552.211 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.380

**Washington**  
Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
caccioli.joseph@stars.com  
+1(202)886-0033  
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
bowers.brian@stars.com

## CIRCULATION

**Mideast**  
Robert Reisman, Mideast Circulation Manager  
robert.r.reisman.naf@gmail.com  
reisman.robert@stars.com  
DSN (314)583-9111

**Europe**  
Karen Leters, Community Engagement Manager  
leters.karen@stars.com  
memberservices@stars.com  
+490631.3615.9090, DSN (314)583.9090

**Pacific**  
Mari Mori, customerhelp@stars.com  
+81-3 6385.3171, DSN (315)229.3171

## CONTACT US

**Washington**  
tel: +1(202) 465-0023  
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3500

**Reader letters**  
letters@stars.com  
**Additional contacts**  
stars.com/contactus

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Ernie Gates

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## OPINION

## Trump sabotaging our political culture

By CHARLES LANE

The Washington Post

After 30 months of President Donald Trump's 48-month presidential term, an awful lot that could have gone wrong, or was predicted to go wrong, has not.

The stock market did not tank. Indexes have instead reached new records as the wider economy has continued to boom. The worst trade wars have not materialized; impulsive though he may be, the commander in chief has not started any actual shooting wars.

No wasteful wall mars the U.S.-Mexico border. Courts have here and there demonstrated their independence, most recently in the Supreme Court's thwarting of his plan to add a politically motivated citizenship question to the 2020 Census.

Yet in a crucial respect — perhaps the most crucial — Trump has exceeded expectations, using the presidential bully pulpit as a platform from which to spread hate and misinformation. His repugnant outburst, questioning in racist terms the patriotism of several Democratic congresswomen of color, is only the latest in a long, sorry list of such episodes.

Many voters, both pro- and anti-Trump, assumed that the actual exercise of presidential authority might modulate the generally venomous language that he employed on the campaign trail, and on social media, during the 2016 campaign. After all, on April 22, 2016, Trump promised to abandon Twitter if elected. "I'll give it up after I'm president. We won't waste anymore."

What Trump was doing as president, and, among Republicans, his approval rating is an astounding 90 percent.

Incentives influence behavior. These statistics tell you everything you need to know about why Trump keeps up his verbal transgressions and why they elicit so little in the way of condemnation from Republican politicians.

We have come a long way since 1868, when the House of Representatives con-

sidered it and is always has been, as he summarized it in a 2012 tweet: "When someone attacks me, I always attack back ... except 1000x more. This has nothing to do with a tirade but rather, a way of life!"

Given some of the things that the apparent targets of his Twitter outburst have said about him ("We're going to impeach this motherf---er" — Rashida Tlaib, Jan. 4), Trump need not doubt material that he has merely been following this personal rule.

What he can never explain, however, is why everyone else isn't entitled to the same ethos of massive retaliation — and how any democratic culture could withstand the constant escalation of insult and demonization that it implies.

Thanks in part to the generally benign economic and international situation, Trump has paid a limited political price for his indecency.

Think back on everything the president has said since Dec. 13, 2017, the date on which Trump won job approval in the RealClearPolitics average reached what was then its lowest point, -21.1 percentage points. Now reflect on the fact that, as of the most recent polls before his notorious new tweet, Trump's net job approval had improved by nearly 14 points since then.

Some 45 percent of Americans said they approve of the job he is doing as president, and, among Republicans, his approval rating is an astounding 90 percent.

Incentives influence behavior. These statistics tell you everything you need to know about why Trump keeps up his verbal transgressions and why they elicit so little in the way of condemnation from Republican politicians.

We have come a long way since 1868, when the House of Representatives con-

sidered it an impeachable offense that President Andrew Johnson did "make and declare, with a loud voice, certain intemperate, inflammatory and scandalous harangues, and therein utter loud threats and bitter menaces, as well against Congress as the laws of the United States duly enacted thereby, amid the cries, jeers and laughter of the multitudes then assembled in hearing. ... Which said utterances, declarations, threats and harangues, highly censurable in any, are peculiarly indecent and unbecoming in the Chief Magistrate of the United States."

The poll numbers also tell you something deeply troubling about a Republican electorate that continues to embrace a president who conducts himself as Trump does — whether out of agreement with his ugliest sentiments or appreciation for his good economic hardly matters.

Errors of policy can be corrected. Markets and unemployment rates ebb and flow. Even separated parents and children can be reunited.

What cannot so readily be restored is the sense of security and mutual trust that flows through a society when a large majority can acknowledge the essential good faith of the person at the top. Trump has managed to normalize, through repetition, a toxic standard of political behavior that may spread as his supporters imitate him — and his opponents consider themselves licensed to respond in kind.

Little by little, he is sabotaging our national political culture, and with it the capacity for unity and deliberation we'll need to face the next economic downturn, or war, when it comes, as it inevitably will.

Washington Post editorial writer/columnist Charles Lane specializes in economic and fiscal policy.

## Only US can resolve rift between Japan, S. Korea

By EVAN S. MEDEIROS

Special to The Washington Post

There is a crisis unfolding in Asia, and few are paying attention. Not least the U.S. government, which is probably the only actor that can fix it.

Two of the United States' core allies — Japan and South Korea — have become deeply estranged. Earlier this month, the bickering broke out into a nasty trade war. The conflict has not only weakened U.S. alliance network but also regional prosperity and global supply chains. Last Wednesday, South Korean President Moon Jae-in called relations with Japan an "unprecedented emergency."

Despite Asia's phenomenal economic, social and technological progress, history looms over the region like a dark shadow. Unresolved grievances related to invasion, occupation and colonization continue to influence perceptions and behavior across the region. Specifically, South Koreans harbor deep resentment about Japan's colonization of the country from 1910 to 1945 and feel they have not been adequately compensated. Japan harbors deep frustration about its multiple and substantial efforts — dating back to the normalization of diplomatic relations in 1965 — to amend for its past crimes.

The latest drama unfolded because South Korea's Supreme Court last year ordered Japanese companies to pay compensation for forced labor during colonization. Tokyo's position is that the 1965 agreement waived reparations. South Korea's position, based on the court decision, is that the agreement does not apply to individuals.

Recently, a South Korean court ordered the seizure and distribution of a Japanese

company's assets, which crossed Tokyo's red line. Japan retaliated by imposing tight restrictions on critical exports to South Korea semiconductor companies that build components for chips that go into smartphones, tablets and a host of industrial electronics.

The geopolitical and economic costs of this conflict are substantial and rising. Both sides may have technical merits to their arguments, but they are myopically damaging their larger diplomatic and economic interests, as well as those of the U.S.

First, alliance cohesion is critical to U.S. strategy in northeast Asia. Regional security challenges posed by North Korea and China require that Washington and its allies maintain unity. Due to the latest tensions, trilateral defense cooperation needed to prepare for North Korean aggression has basically stalled.

North Korea and China know this. Both have — separately and in parallel — tried to put further distance between South Korea, Japan and the United States during periods of tension among the allies.

Second, China under Xi Jinping has accelerated its military and aggressive posture throughout Asia, especially on maritime territorial issues. Xi would probably do more if not constrained by U.S. allies. China would love for U.S. forces to leave the Korean Peninsula, to have a freer hand to coerce Taiwan and to establish effective control in the South China Sea and South China Sea.

The current Japan-South Korea conflict does China's work for it. It provides a permissive environment to pull South Korea away from both the U.S. and Japan. It creates more space for Beijing and Tokyo to flirt with more aggressive postures, validating the Chinese belief that Japan's reliance

on China is growing and that these alliances are ultimately malleable.

Third, Japan's actions legitimize a dangerous practice: implementing unilateral sanctions of questionable legal basis against specific industries in the service of domestic protection. If U.S. allies now get into the game of blatant economic coercion, these actions risk triggering a cycle of retaliation that would destabilize regional trade and global supply chains — for a continent that accounts for nearly two-thirds of global economic growth.

The U.S. must show leadership, but with discretion. Washington is the only actor both sides will listen to. President Donald Trump should call both leaders today and encourage them to stop the trade actions and begin talking. If needed, the president should meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korea's Moon at the next available opportunity.

There is precedent for this. In 2014, during a low point between Seoul and Tokyo, President Barack Obama quietly held a meeting with both countries' leaders during an international summit. The situation was so bad that Abe had not yet met with South Korean counterpart, President Park Geun-hye, about a year into her term.

This discussion stopped the free-fall, put a floor under relations and created a framework to rebuild ties. Importantly, the leaders agreed that disputes over history should not undermine security cooperation.

There is no time to argue for the current administration to impress upon our allies the damage being done and the larger strategic interests at stake.

Evan S. Medeiros is a professor in Asian Studies at Georgetown University and previously served on the National Security Council staff during the Obama administration.

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



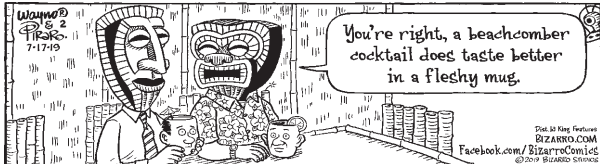
Carpe Diem



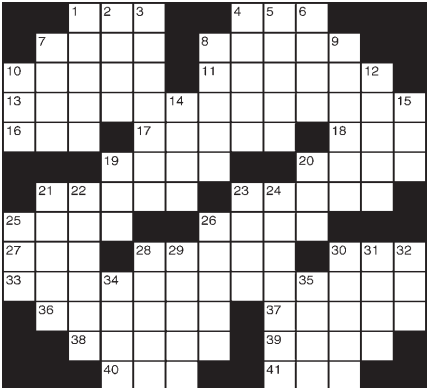
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



# Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## ACROSS

- 1 Mahal preceder
- 4 Actress Dawber
- 7 Audio equipment brand
- 8 Head lights?
- 10 Ulan —
- 11 Sports venues
- 13 1991 Robin Williams movie
- 16 Constitution letters
- 17 Seaboard
- 18 Fib
- 19 Ergo
- 20 Univ, division
- 21 Ocean bottom
- 23 Poets of yore
- 25 Landed
- 26 Debtors' notes
- 27 — Paulo, Brazil
- 28 Identified
- 30 Cushion
- 33 Pennsylvania city
- 36 Soup legume
- 37 Chicago NFL team
- 38 Bird or King
- 39 Paris airport

## DOWN

- 14 Teeny
- 15 Retrieve
- 19 Youngster
- 20 ER workers
- 21 Thrash about
- 22 Toy train maker
- 23 Dutch word that means "farmer"
- 24 Birders' society
- 25 Request
- 26 Hint at
- 28 — Dame
- 29 Blazing sounds
- 30 Song of praise
- 31 Ethereal
- 32 "— Kapital"
- 34 Squirrels do it
- 35 Antitoxins

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



7-17

## CRYPTOQUIP

MYVTT PVZGJJQ MOSRZWRZJ  
EWJ ZRVPWRM WAM YJMG  
SJERZHOT HJZY AQ GWR  
HVTT MRVMJQ: VOGOY VQG.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT GUY HAS AN EMOTIONAL CHARACTER ODDLY SIMILAR TO A YOUNG MALE HORSE. HE'S SO COLT-HEARTED.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals S




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- 1) People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

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US SPEC Vehicles  
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Free Europe-wide delivery  
**CE**

Education 430

**Certified teachers needed**  
Inquire Kids Learning Center  
[K.L.mackernbach@gmail.com](mailto:K.L.mackernbach@gmail.com)

Brent Marx new CD  
"You're the Light"  
Country/Rock/easylistening  
songs for Parties, travel, home  
and parties.  
Available now at Amazon.de  
(iTunes, iCloud, etc.)  
50% of all proceeds are donated  
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# SCOREBOARD

## Sports

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.  
myafn.net

## Deals

### Monday's transactions

#### BASEBALL

##### AMERICAN LEAGUE

**BOSTON RED SOX** — Designated INF Eduardo Nunez assignment. Options RHP Gregory Polanco (L), Selected the contract of RHP Trevor Rosenthal from Toledo.

##### HOUSTON ASTROS

Assigned SS Carlos Correa and INF Aldemys Diaz to Round Rock (PCL) on rehab assignments.

##### CITY ROYALS

Acquired LHP Mike Montgomery from the Chicago Cubs for CF Jatin Maldonado.

##### LOS ANGELES ANGELS

Recalled OF Michael Hermosillo from Salt Lake (PCL). Designated LHP Jose Suarez to Salt Lake.

##### SEATTLE MARINERS

Options RHPs Pedro Martinez and David McKay to Tacoma (PCL). Reinstated RHP Sam Tuivailoma from the 60-day injured list.

##### TAMPA BAY RAYS

Traded C Hyun Bum Kim to the Los Angeles Angels for RHP Barmbeck.

##### TORONTO BLUE JAYS

Recalled OF Mike Ciminelli from Buffalo and RHP Jacob deGrom from the 10-day IL, retroactive to July 13. Recalled RHP Hensar Ynoa from the 60-day injured list.

##### CHICAGO CUBS

Sent RHP Xavier Velazquez to Portland (PCL) on rehab assignment.

##### COLORADO ROCKIES

Recalled RHP Chi Chi Gonzalez from Albuquerque (PCL). Options RHPs Travis Jankowski and RHP Jhonny Peralta to Albuquerque.

##### LOS ANGELES DODGERS

Recalled RHPs Sadek and RHPs from Oklahoma City (PCL). Designated LHP Zack Roscup for assignment. Placed RHP Chris Taylor on the 10-day IL.

##### NEW YORK METS

Placed RHP Zack Wheeler on the 10-day IL, retroactive to July 12.

##### SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

Placed INF Evan Longoria on the 10-day IL. Recalled RHPs Sean Rodriguez, RHPs and Ray Black from Sacramento (PCL); and options Black back to Sacramento.

##### BASKETBALL

##### NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

**CLEVELAND CAVALIERS** — Waived G J.R. Smith.

##### NEW ENGLAND PELICANS

Waived C Christian Wood.

##### FOOTBALL

##### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

**ATLANTA FALCONS** — Agree to terms with DT Grady Jarrett on a four-year contract.

##### CINCINNATI BENGALS

Clair Cling announced his retirement.

##### NEW YORK GIANTS

Signed S Landon Collins after alleged domestic violence-related incident.

##### DALLAS RAIDERS

Re-signed G Jonathan Cooper. Waived WR Derrick Cocke.

##### TENNESSEE TITANS

DL Merrick Moore announced his retirement.

##### NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

##### ANAHIM DUCKS

Waived G Kevin Dineen coach of San Diego (AHL).

##### ARIZONA COYOTES

Signed D Dylan Meyer to a one-year, two-way contract.

##### BUFFALO SABRES

Signed F Dylan Cozens to a three-year, entry-level contract.

##### LOS ANGELES KINGS

Signed F Michael Amadio, D Daniel Brickley and D Matt Roy to two-year contract extensions.

##### OTTAWA SENATORS

Signed F Michael Goulet to a two-year contract and D Lassi Thompson to a three-year, entry-level contract.

##### WINNIPEG CAPS

Re-signed D Colby Williams to a one-year, two-way contract.

##### WINNIPEG JETS

Signed D Ville Heino to a three-year, entry-level contract.

##### SOCCER

##### Major League Soccer

Loaned D Jimmy Doyle to Portland.

##### National Women's Soccer League

**WASHINGTON SPIRITS** — Traded G Sam Kerr to the Portland Thorns for D/M Elise Kellon-Klein.

##### CELEBRITY

**RICE** — Named Michael Whitehead assistant golf coach.

## Pro soccer

### MLS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	10	26	32	17
D.C. United	8	5	32	27
New York	8	5	31	28
Atlanta	4	4	31	28
Orlando	9	10	30	26
Montreal	7	8	26	33
Toronto FC	7	8	26	33
Chicago	7	8	26	33
New York City FC	6	8	24	24
New England	6	8	24	24
Chicago	5	6	22	31
Columbus	5	6	17	31
Cincinnati	5	6	17	20

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles FC	10	5	35	21
Seattle	10	5	35	21
LA Galaxy	11	8	34	25
Minnesota United	10	3	33	27
San Jose	9	7	31	33
Real Salt Lake	9	9	29	29
FC Dallas	8	8	29	29
Houston	8	8	27	38
Portland KC	6	7	25	32
San Antonio	6	7	25	32
Vancouver	5	10	20	34
Colorado	4	9	8	22

**Notes:** Three points for victory, one point for tie.

### Friday, July 12

New England 2, D.C. United 1, tie

Los Angeles FC 3, Houston 1

### Saturday, July 13

San Jose 1, Columbus 0

Toronto FC 2, Montreal 0

Chicago 2, Chicago 1

Minnesota United 1, FC Dallas 0

Real Salt Lake 4, Philadelphia 0

Portland 3, Vancouver 0

Colorado 2, Portland 2, tie

### Sunday, July 14

Seattle 2, Atlanta 1

New York City FC 1, New York City FC 1

### Wednesday's games

Houston at Atlanta

Portland at Columbus

D.C. United at New England

### Thursday's games

D.C. United at Portland

### Friday's games

Los Angeles FC at LA Galaxy

### Saturday's games

Chicago at Toronto FC

Portland at Philadelphia

FC Dallas at Sporting Kansas City

New York City FC at Colorado

Minnesota United at Real Salt Lake

San Jose at Vancouver

### Sunday's games

D.C. United at Atlanta

New England at Cincinnati

New York at Orlando City

Portland at Seattle

### Shots

Carlos Vela, LFC	79
Alexander Katal, CHI	79
Zlatan Ibrahimovic, LA	67
Diego Rossi, LFC	66
Kei Kamara, COL	66
Diego Costa, DCU	61
Christian Espinoza, SJ	57
Cristian Espinoza, SJ	56
Mauro Manotas, HOU	54

### Goals on goal

Carlos Vela, LFC	41
Diego Rossi, LFC	32
Diego Costa, DCU	25
Alejandro Pozuelo, TOR	25
Krzysztof Prybylko, PHI	23
Cristian Espinoza, SJ	22
Felipe Gutierrez, KC	22
Alexander Katal, CHI	22
Wayne Rooney, DCU	22

### Cautions

Francisco Escobar, ATL

Bastian Schweinsteiger, CHI

Diego Chapa, POR

11 players tied with 6

### Cards

Diego Chapa, POR

Francisco Escobar, ATL

Bastian Schweinsteiger, CHI

Jellyn Acosta, COL

Daniel Keirrel, RSL

8 players tied with 1

### Goals-Allowed Avg.

Steve Clark, POR

Tyler Miller, COL

Bill Hamid, DCU

Jose Guzman, DAL

Sean Johnson, NYC

Sporting Kansas City 3

Brad Guzan, ATL

Stefan Frei, SEA

David Giffey, CHI

Jack Zeff, COL

Brad Guzan, ATL

Vancouver at New England

Columbus at Chicago

New York at Toronto FC

### Thursday's games

D.C. United at Portland

### Friday's games

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Sporting Kansas City 3

Brad Guzan, ATL

Stefan Frei, SEA



## TENNIS/NBA

## On tennis

## Djokovic now seems poised to catch up to Federer, Nadal

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
Associated Press

**N**WIMBLEDON, England Novak Djokovic never has been this close to Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal in the Grand Slam trophy count.

Given the way Djokovic edged Federer in a thrilling Wimbledon final for his fourth championship at the past five major tournaments, there is little reason to think the 32-year-old Serb doesn't have a realistic shot at catching his two great rivals at the top of tennis.

Federer owns the men's record of 20 Slams, Nadal has 18, Djokovic 16. The chase is really and truly on now.

"For him, it's the goal, absolutely," said Djokovic's coach, Marian Vajda.

Djokovic's 7-6 (5), 1-6, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 13-12 (3) victory Sunday offered some insight about what the future might hold and what his place in the hierarchy eventually could become.

At 4 hours, 57 minutes, it was the longest Wimbledon final in history.

More remarkably, Djokovic became the first man since 1948 to win the title at the All England Club after facing championship points Federer was on the verge of winning while serving at 8-7, 40-15 in the fifth set.

But Djokovic took the next two points and, eventually, was better in the closing tiebreaker, instituted at 12-all in deciding sets at Wimbledon for the first time this year.

If the consensus is that Federer's excellence is defined by the word "elegance," and Nadal's by "dog-

gedness," then Djokovic's might be best distilled to "clutchiness."

As Sunday's match stretched into the evening, one element of their respective past performances at Wimbledon seemed particularly relevant: Djokovic is now 8-1 in five-setters there; Federer 7-7. Against each other? Djokovic is 4-0.

Turned out the words spoken by eight-time Wimbledon champion Federer two days before the final were rather prescient: "It comes very much down to who's better on the day, who's in a better mental place, who's got more energy left, who's tougher when it really comes to the crunch."

Federer lost despite winning more total points, 218-204, and dominating just about every other significant statistic, too: aces (25-10), service breaks (7-3), winners (94-54) and so on.

The key: Djokovic won all three tiebreakers, the sort of can't-take-a-point-off segment of a match that is as much dependent on how capable a player is of steeling oneself it is about this or that particular stroke.

In the moments that meant the most, when the sets were at stake, when the outcome was in the balance, Djokovic was superior.

Seven times, Federer was two points away from taking the opening set. Djokovic didn't allow it. Federer was one point from seizing the third. Again, Djokovic prevented it.

And then, just like when he erased two match points each time in the 2010 and 2011 U.S. Open semifinals, Djokovic came back from the brink to win.

"A mental battle, more than anything else," Vajda said. "It was all about focus there at the end."

For years, in part because he zoomed past Pete Sampras' old mark of 14 Grand Slam titles, Federer was considered by many to be the greatest male tennis player in history. Then Nadal earned his supporters and created a debate, not so much by accumulating his own impressive collection of trophies, but by repeatedly getting the better of Federer, including beating him in the epic 2008 Wimbledon final.

Djokovic has strengthened his case for being part of the conversation. Younger than both men — Nadal is 33, Federer turns 38 on Aug. 8 — he is gaining on them in Slams, is the only member of the trio to have won four consecutive majors and holds an edge in the head-to-head series with each.

Against Nadal, he is 28-26.

Against Federer, he is 26-22 overall, 10-6 at majors and 3-1 at Wimbledon, including 3-0 in finals at the grass-court tournament.

Those, though, aren't the numbers people generally look at when trying to decide which of the Big Three deserves to be listed first.

Djokovic, No. 1 in the ATP rankings at the moment, knows what category matters the most to many.

"Those two guys (are) probably one of the biggest reasons I still compete at this level. The fact that they made history (in) this sport motivates me as well, inspires me to try to do what they have done, what they've achieved, and even more," said Djokovic, who has won 33 of his past 34 matches at majors.

"Whether I'm going to be able to do it or not," he added, "I don't know."

Neither do we. But it sure should be fun watching him try.



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Cavaliers guard J.R. Smith speaks during a news conference on June 7, 2018. Cleveland released the colorful guard Monday, before his \$15.6 million contract for next season became guaranteed.

## NBA briefs

## Cavs waive Smith after eventful tenure

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — J.R. Smith's never-a-dull-moment run with the Cavaliers is over.

Cleveland released the colorful shooting guard Monday before his \$15.6 million contract for next season became guaranteed. The Cavs had been trying to trade Smith for months, but the team was unable to find the right deal even after he agreed to extend his guarantee date from June 30 to July 15.

By waiving Smith, the Cavaliers will open salary-cap space and will move under the luxury tax threshold for next season.

The 33-year-old played in just 11 games last season after he stepped away from the team in hopes of being traded or released. It was a mutual decision because he wasn't happy with his role and the Cavaliers didn't want him to be a negative influence on their young players.

Once he clears waivers, Smith will be a free agent and can sign anywhere. Last week, Smith said he wasn't finished playing and smiled when asked if it's been strange not being part of a team for the past eight months.

"Technically my whole career's been in limbo, so this is easy for me," he said before playing in the All-Star Celebrity Softball Game.

Smith's release ends an interesting tenure with the Cavaliers, who acquired him in a trade from the New York Knicks in 2015.

He was both loved and loathed by Cleveland fans, who were never quite sure what he might do on or off the floor.

One of the NBA's most accurate three-point shooters, Smith played a vital part in Cleveland winning the 2016 championship, ending a 52-year title drought for the city's three major sports teams. Smith made two three-pointers during a critical stretch of Game 7 of the Finals, helping the Cavaliers complete a historic comeback from a 3-1 series deficit to dethrone the Golden State Warriors.

Smith will also be remembered for a gaffe in Game 1 of the 2018 Finals.

In the closing seconds, he grabbed an offensive rebound after a missed foul shot and dribbled out the clock to end regulation, thinking the Cavs were ahead. The game was tied, and Cleveland lost in overtime on the way to being swept in four straight games by the Warriors.

## Simmons, 76ers agree to max extension

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia 76ers and star guard Ben Simmons have agreed to a \$170 million, five-year contract extension, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. The max deal is the latest big commitment by a team expected to make a serious push at its first NBA championship since 1983.

Simmons, 22, will make about \$8.1 million this season, the last of his four-year rookie deal. His salary for the next season will jump to about \$29.3 million and rise to nearly \$39 million in 2024-25, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Monday because the contract is not official.

The deal solidifies the 76ers' core for the next few seasons. All-Star Joel Embiid and Al Horford are under contract through 2023, Tobias Harris through 2024 and now Simmons through 2025. Horford got a \$109 million, four-year deal and Embiid agreed last season to a \$147 million, five-year deal.

Philadelphia is 101-58 in regular-season games when Simmons plays. He has had 22 triple-doubles in the last two seasons.

Simmons also has 80 double-doubles in the past two seasons, but he missed all 11 three-point attempts his rookie season and was 0-for-6 last season. Defenses sagged on Simmons during him to shoot because the speedy All-Star can't do much outside the paint.



TIM IRELAND/AP

Novak Djokovic, left, and Roger Federer hold their trophies after the Wimbledon singles final on Sunday

## NBA

# Former players have high hopes for Nets

## Johnson, Williams believe Irving, Durant can do what they couldn't

By BRIAN MAHONEY  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving gave the Brooklyn Nets two big victories in one night.

"They hit the Mega Millions and the Powerball," former NBA star Charles Oakley said.

In the first hours of free agency, the Nets added two of the best players available to a young roster that made the playoffs, giving them hope of not only contention for an NBA title, but to be the biggest basketball team in New York.

The Nets have gone after both before and gotten neither.

There was the 2012 acquisition of Joe Johnson to play with point guard Deron Williams, a pairing that was touted as "Brooklyn's Backcourt."

Then there was the trade the next year for Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett, a megadeal that landed the Nets the cover of "Sports Illustrated."

It didn't get them anywhere close to a title, though.

So it would be easy to mix caution with optimism, but former Nets who were back at Barclays Center on Sunday to play in the BIG3 think things can be different this time.

"I think they're going to be great," Johnson said. "I think it's a lot different now."

In his mind, the key change is the Nets' practice facility in Brooklyn that the team was just starting to move into when he accepted a buyout during the 2015-16 season. Before then, the Nets were still practicing in East Rutherford, N.J., even though they had been playing their games in Brooklyn since 2012.

"A lot of guys were staying in Jersey so the commute over here

was tough, man," Johnson said. "Riding in a car for two, 2½ hours and then get out and have to warm up and play. That was tough."

Johnson said he would leave his home in Cresskill, N.J., on game days a little before 3 p.m. to arrive at Barclays Center by 5:30. The current practice home, rising high above the Brooklyn streets and with a fancy view looking over the river toward Manhattan, will allow Durant and Irving a life he never lived as a Net.

"Oh, they'll have it made in the shade," Johnson said.

Johnson and Williams, along with Brook Lopez, led the Nets to a 49-33 record in the first season in Brooklyn, before the Nets lost to Chicago in seven games in the first round of the playoffs. The trade with Boston came a couple of months later and brought out-sized expectations, but the Nets actually had a worse record the following season, going 44-38, though they did reach the second round.

Reggie Evans, who played on both teams, thought the less-heralded team was the better one. While he praised Pierce, Garnett and

Jason Terry, who also came in the trade, for their professionalism and work ethic, they were near the end of their careers by the time they donned their Brooklyn black jerseys. Garnett was 37 at the time of the trade, and Pierce and Terry turned 36 before the 2013-14 season started.

Durant is 30 and Irving 27.

"So what we got was smart, wise guys who know the game. Very smart, you know what I'm saying?" Evans said. "So it's two different scenarios, but I like what they've got going on."

He added that both players should be at ease in New York, whereas Williams, acquired from Utah to be the first franchise star



FRANK FRANKLIN II, ABOVE, AND MICHAEL DWYER, BELOW/AP

The Brooklyn Nets made one of the biggest splashes in the free-agent market this month by adding Kevin Durant, above left, and Kyrie Irving, below, to a young group that made the playoffs last season.



in Brooklyn, never quite seemed comfortable.

"I love D-Will, I just think it's a lot of pressure being up under these lights in New York," Evans said. "It takes a real, real soldier to play here."

What about Durant and Irving? "KD and Kyrie ain't going to have no trouble playing in front of these bright lights," he said. "Period."

The Nets' haul so thoroughly

dwarfed the Knicks' that Knicks President Steve Mills put out a statement hours after free agency openly acknowledging his fans' disappointment. New York went on to sign some solid veterans who should help it improve, but no marquee names.

"Do they have an 'A' player on their team? I don't think so," said Oakley, a former Knicks who has teamed with Knicks owner James Dolan. "They got maybe one 'B'

and a lot of 'Cs.'"

So the Nets could dominate the local rivalry, which they did for a time when Jason Kidd and Kenyon Martin were leading them to consecutive NBA Finals in the early 2000s.

That couldn't do much to shrink the shadow they play under — they were calling New Jersey home then — but maybe that could change with both teams in the same city now.

"I think it's a different day and age because they're in New York. Like, nobody has to cross the river to come see them play," said Martin, who like Oakley is now a coach in the 3-on-3 league of former NBA players co-founded by Ice Cube.

"What we were doing and no matter how much we were winning, we're still in the Meadowlands. So I think that was a deterrent to people, and then the Knicks' historical brand, it's always going to be that. No matter what the Nets do, the Knicks' staple, that's always going to be there. But I think if they come in and win a championship, that will change. That will change the dynamic of the area, I believe."

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## MLB

## Roundup

## D'Arnaud rallies Rays past Yanks

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Travis d'Arnaud hit three home runs, including a three-run shot with two outs in the ninth inning off Aroldis Chapman, and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the New York Yankees 5-4 on Monday night.

D'Arnaud tied a Tampa Bay record for homers in a game. It has been done five times, most recently by Evan Longoria in 2012.

The Yankees had been 49-0 this season when leading after eight innings. The Rays won for just the second time in seven games in the Bronx this year and cut the Yankees' lead in the AL East to five games.

Andrew Kittredge (1-0) got the win despite allowing Edwin Encarnacion's second homer of the game, a two-run shot in the eighth that put the Yankees up 4-2. Oliver Drake got one out for his first save.

**Dodgers 16, Phillies 2:** Cody Bellinger hit his 32nd and 33rd homers, Clayton Kershaw (8-2) struck out seven in six innings and major league-leading Los Angeles routed host Philadelphia.

Bellinger passed reigning NL MVP Christian Yelich for the MLB lead in homers. He clubbed solo shots in the fifth and sixth for his 11th career multi-homer game and fourth this season.

**Red Sox 10, Blue Jays 8:** Rookie Michael Chavis hit his first grand slam, Xander Bogaerts had three hits and Andrew Benintendi drove in three runs as host Boston beat Toronto.

Boston batted around for five runs in the first inning against starter Trent Thornton (3-7) and then sent 10 batters to the plate in the third, scoring five more.

**Giants 19-2, Rockies 2-1:** Brandon Crawford homered three times and drove in nine runs in two games as visiting San Francisco swept Colorado in a day-night doubleheader.

In the first game, Crawford went 5-for-6 with two homers and

tied a San Francisco team record with eight RBIs as the Giants scored a season high in runs in a rout of the Rockies.

**Indians 8, Tigers 6:** Oscar Mercado hit his second home run of the game — a leadoff blast in the seventh inning — and host Cleveland beat Detroit.

Mercado homered into the bleachers in left field off Victor Alcantara (3-2) to break a 5-all tie. Mercado also hit a solo home run off Detroit starter Daniel Norris in the fifth.

**Reds 6, Cubs 3:** Eugenio Suarez and Yasiel Puig each hit his 22nd home run of the season, and visiting Cincinnati rallied past Chicago.

Jesus Winker raced home with an unearned go-ahead run to cap a two-run seventh inning that made a winner of All-Star Luis Castillo (9-3).

**Royals 5, White Sox 2:** Jakob Junis (5-8) struck out a career-high 10 and Nicky Lopez drove in a pair of runs and scored twice as host Kansas City beat Chicago.

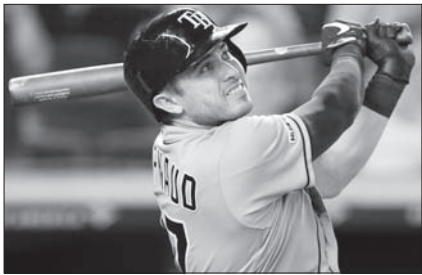
The Royals beat Lucas Giolito for the first time and thwarted his bid for a 12th victory. The right-hander entered the game 6-0 with a 2.13 ERA in 10 previous career starts against Kansas City.

**Cardinals 7, Pirates 0:** Miles Mikolas (6-9) pitched a complete-game, eight-hitter and Tyler O'Neill hit a pair of two-run homers, leading host St. Louis over Pittsburgh.

It was the first complete game this season and second overall for Mikolas. He struck out three and walked none while throwing 100 pitches.

**Angels 9, Astros 6:** Albert Pujols got three hits and drove in three runs, and host Los Angeles remained unbeaten since the All-Star break with a victory over AL West-leading Houston.

Pujols had his first three-hit game since May 13. Andrelton Simmons also homered as the Angels rallied from an early three-run deficit.



KATHY WILLEMS/AP

The Tampa Bay Rays' Travis d'Arnaud watches his three-run home run during the ninth inning of Monday's game against the Yankees in New York. It was d'Arnaud's third home run of the game.



PHOTOS BY MORRIS GASH/AP

The Atlanta Braves' Freddie Freeman, right, is congratulated by Ronald Acuna Jr., second from right, and Dansby Swanson after hitting a three-run home run during the fourth inning of Monday's game against the Brewers in Milwaukee. At left is Brewers catcher Yasmani Grandal.

## Freeman powers Braves to fifth straight victory

BY KEITH JENKINS

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — One pitch was all Freddie Freeman needed to power the Atlanta Braves to their fifth straight victory.

The left-handed slugger sent an offering from Milwaukee Brewers starter Adrian Houser deep to center field to bring home three of the Braves' four runs in a 4-2 win Monday night.

"We've been clicking for two months now," Freeman said. "None of this surprises anyone in this clubhouse. We are playing really good baseball."

The homer marked Freeman's 25th of the season and helped the first-place Braves improve to a season-best 21 games over .500.

Freeman is the fastest player in Braves franchise history to reach 25 homers since Andruw Jones in 2005. Freeman reached the mark in 95 games. It took Jones 78 games.

Max Fried (10-4) pitched five scoreless innings to secure the win. The left-hander surrendered three hits and struck out five in just 78 pitches. Braves manager Brian Snitker said he pulled Fried early after a blister had formed on his left index finger.

"I thought it was smart not trying to pitch through it," Snitker said. "It was pretty significant. If he hadn't have said anything and kept pitching, it probably would have torn open."

Fried is now 2-0 with 11 shut-out innings pitched against Milwaukee this year.



Braves starter Max Fried pitched five scoreless innings, giving up three hits and striking out five with 78 pitches.

Freeman's home run put Atlanta on the board first in the fourth. The blast scored Ronald Acuna Jr. and Dansby Swanson, who each reached on a base hit.

The Braves improved to a major-league best 40-17 since Snitker moved Acuna Jr. to the top of the order on May 10.

Houser (2-4) fell to 0-4 as a starter this season after allowing four earned runs on eight hits in six innings.

Milwaukee, which stranded seven baserunners, has now dropped five of its last six and eight of its last 10 games.

"We just gotta make more plays," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "That's what it comes down to. Whether it be better at-bats and stuff or just mak-

ing a play defensively [or] making a big pitch when it counts. ... We gotta find a way to make plays. That's how we kind of break through this. Just make more plays. That's the only way to do it."

Ryan Braun hit his 13th home run of the season in the sixth and Keston Hiura brought home the Brewers' other run on a deep drive to center that fell just beyond the outstretched glove of Acuna Jr. The RBI triple pulled Milwaukee to within 3-2.

Austin Riley singled on a fly ball off Braun's glove in the seventh. The base hit scored Ozzie Albies.

Christian Yelich had two hits on the night and added a stolen base, his 22nd of the season.

## MLB/SPORTS BRIEFS

# Cubs acquire Maldonado from KC for Montgomery

Associated Press

CHICAGO — With their All-Star catcher sidelined, the Chicago Cubs quickly found some experienced help behind the plate.

The NL Central leaders acquired Martin Maldonado in a trade with Kansas City on Monday night that sent left-hander Mike Montgomery to the Royals.

Cubs president of baseball operations Theo Epstein announced the deal following Chicago's 6-3 loss to Cincinnati — adding that top catcher Willson Contreras was going on the 10-day injured list with a strain to the arch area of his right foot.

The 32-year-old Maldonado, a Gold Glove winner in 2017 with the Angels, was batting .227 with six homers and 17 RBIs in 74 games for the struggling Royals this season. The Cubs will be his fifth team in nine major league seasons, and Epstein expects him to provide a strong defensive presence.

"He can really receive," Epstein said. "He can really throw. He's caught playoff games. He's handled some of the best pitchers in the game. He's a favorite of pitchers to throw to. He calls a great game."

Contreras' injury initially was not deemed serious and he was expected to start Tuesday, but an MRI showed enough damage to warrant shutting down the 27-year-old. Epstein said Contreras should improve quickly with rest and the club hopes he'll be ready



JOHN MINICILLO/AP

**Mike Montgomery recorded the final out of Game 7 of the 2016 World Series for the Cubs.**

to play once eligible to return from a backdated stint on the IL.

"Our medical staff feels like if he were to try to play on it, that he'd be risking exacerbating the injury and turning it into something long term," Epstein said. "So we have to get ahead of it, take it out of Willie's hands and get him off his feet."

The Cubs, holding a slim lead in their crowded division, weren't sure if Maldonado would arrive at Wrigley Field in time for Tuesday night's game against the Reds. He was pulled by the Royals from Monday night's home game against the Chicago White Sox for a pinch-hitter, backup catcher Cam Gallagher, in the sixth inning.

Maldonado is a .220 career hitter with 57 homers and 210 RBIs in 686 games.

Montgomery, 30, is 1-2 with a 5.67 ERA in 20 relief appearances for the Cubs this year, and was 14-17 with three saves in 119 games for Chicago over four seasons.

Montgomery got the final out in Game 7 of the 2016 World Series at Cleveland, ending the Cubs' 108-year championship drought. "You can't talk about his contributions without talking about him getting the last out in that World Series that changed everybody's lives," Epstein said. "Beyond that, I thought he started coming into his own."

Montgomery is expected to get a chance to start with the Royals, who drafted him in 2008. He was traded to Tampa Bay four years later with Wil Myers and Jake Odorizzi, and made his big league debut with Seattle in 2015.

The deal with the Rays involving Montgomery was one of the most significant in Royals history because it netted pitchers James Shields and Wade Davis.

Shields won 27 games over two strong seasons with the Royals and helped them capture the 2014 AL pennant. Davis blossomed into a lights-out reliever in Kansas City and was a critical member of the 2015 World Series championship team.

Royals general manager Dayton Moore said the club intends to use Montgomery in the rotation as a replacement for Homer Bailey, who was dealt to Oakland on Sunday.



JOHN LOCHER/AP

**The Memphis Grizzlies' Brandon Clarke holds the MVP trophy after defeating the Minnesota Timberwolves in the NBA summer league championship game Monday in Las Vegas.**

## Briefly

# Memphis captures summer league title

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Brandon Clarke had 15 points and 16 rebounds to lead the eighth-seeded Memphis Grizzlies to a 95-92 victory over the third-seeded Minnesota Timberwolves in the championship game of the NBA Summer League on Monday.

Clarke, who was named overall MVP for the summer league, also had three blocks and four assists to earn the championship game MVP.

The Grizzlies, who led by as many as 17 points, led by only two after the three quarters, but got a boost from Grayson Allen, who scored 10 of his team-high 17 points in the second half and deflected the ball away to keep Minnesota from taking a last-second shot.

Bruno Caboclo and Dusty Hanan also had 15 points for the Grizzlies, while Tyler Harvey added 12 points and five assists.

Kelan Martin led five Timberwolves in double figures, finishing with a game-high 19 points.

Jordan Murphy scored 14, Mitchell Creek had 13, Barry Brown Jr. chipped in 12 and Keita Bates-Diop finished with 10 for Minnesota.

## Mets' Wheeler on IL with shoulder fatigue

NEW YORK — Mets pitcher Zack Wheeler has been placed on the 10-day injured list because of shoulder fatigue, which could complicate efforts by the out-of-contention team to trade the right-hander before the July 31 deadline.

New York made the move retroactive to Friday, and Wheeler will be eligible to be activated July 22.

Wheeler last started July 7 and the Mets said Monday the injury was discovered following the All-Star break. Steven Matz was scheduled to replace Wheeler for Tuesday's series opener at

Minnesota.

Wheeler is 6-6 with a 4.69 ERA in 19 starts this season, striking out 130 and walking 34 in 119 innings. The 29-year-old, 39-36 in five big league seasons, is eligible for free agency after the World Series.

## Cleveland State PG transfers to Florida

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Florida has landed a third transfer in the last three months by signing former Cleveland State point guard Tyree Appleby.

Appleby averaged 17.2 points and 5.6 assists as a sophomore in the Horizon League last season. He has to sit out the 2019-20 season under NCAA transfer rules and will have two years of eligibility remaining. The Gators had a scholarship available after forward Isaiah Stokes transferred this month.

Appleby, a 6-foot-1 Arkansas native, joins fellow transfers Anthony Duruji and Kerry Blackshear Jr. in Gainesville. Duruji jumped from Louisiana Tech to Florida in April and must sit out next season. Blackshear can play right away as a graduate transfer from Virginia Tech.

## Suspended Voynov signs with KHL team

MOSCOW — Former Los Angeles Kings defenseman Slava Voynov has signed a one-year deal in the Kontinental Hockey League as he sits out the final months of his NHL suspension.

Russian KHL club Avangard Omsk says it signed Voynov to a one-year deal. His NHL suspension, imposed after the league determined he committed acts of domestic violence, will end midway through the season.

Voynov won an Olympic gold medal at the tournament last year when he didn't have NHL players. He didn't play any pro hockey last season.



ORLIN WAGNER/AP

**The Chicago Cubs acquired catcher Martin Maldonado on Monday from the Kansas City Royals.**

## BRITISH OPEN

## Healthy: Woods hopes extended break pays off

## FROM BACK PAGE

There were not many options. Woods has not played the week after the U.S. Open since 2003. Instead of having the Quicken Loans National, which his foundation ran, the tour offered two new events in Detroit and Minnesota. The only time Woods has played a week before the British Open was in 1995, when he was still in college. He played the Scottish Open at Carnoustie ahead of the British Open at St. Andrews.

His only public activity since Pebble Beach was a social media post for Nike on Monday in which he says he is getting up at 1 a.m. because that would be 6 a.m. at Royal Portrush, and he wanted "to be prepared for the time change."

"If you want to succeed, if you want to get better, if you want to win, if you want to accomplish your goals, well, it starts with getting up early in the morning," he said.

The inactivity is another reminder that Woods as manager of his health as much as his game.

Most telling was what he said at Bethpage Black: "There are more days I feel older than my age than I do younger than my age," he said.

What to expect at the final major of the year?

Anything. No one was more perplexed about his lack of competition going into the British Open than Padraig Harrington.

"If you're serious about winning The Open, you've got to be playing tournament golf at least before it," Harrington said. "You'd rather be playing links golf and being in a tournament than just on your own going into it."

That was never the case with Woods.

In his younger days, Woods came over to Ireland with Mark O'Meara for a mix of links golf and fishing, either at Portlarnock or Royal County Down, and sometimes to the south in Waterville. In a 10-year stretch since he first went to Ireland, Woods won the Open three times and con-

tended in three others.

"I think it has been instrumental in preparing for the British Open, not only for getting adjusted for the time, but also getting used to playing links golf," he said in 2002 in Ireland, where he won a World Golf Championship. "We play in all different types of weather, which certainly makes it interesting. And I think it's instrumental in my preparation for The Open Championship."

Harrington wasn't being as critical of Woods as the headlines suggested. There is simply a different way to prepare, and no one can argue with Woods' results.

"I was always mightily impressed when Tiger Woods would play in a major without playing the week before," Harrington said. "I'd be a basket case if I didn't play the week before. Different personalities. Completely different."

Woods finished last year with a victory in the Tour Championship, and he had been building toward that. He inched closer to contention two weeks before the British Open, and then had the lead briefly on Sunday at Carnoustie and tied for sixth. He pushed Koepka all the way to the end in a runner-up finish at the PGA Championship.

And then he won at East Lake. Since then?

He was clearly fatigued at the Ryder Cup, where he didn't win a match, and after two months away from the game, he finished 17th against an 18-man field in the Bahamas. He played three tournaments in a five-week stretch to start this year and finished nearly 11 shots out of the lead on average. And then he skipped Bay Hill, citing soreness in his neck. His explanation was simple. Sometimes he doesn't feel that great, a product of age and injuries.

Woods lost in the quarterfinals of Match Play, and two weeks later won the Masters.

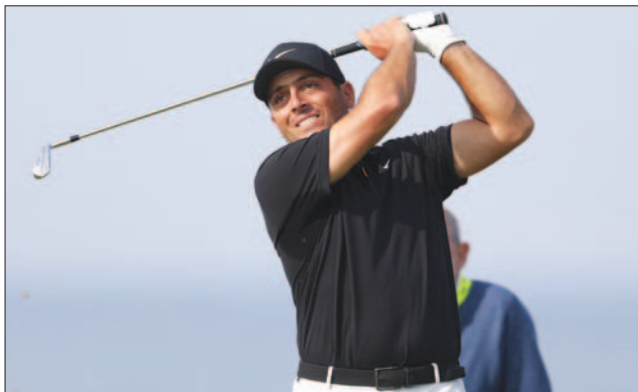
In the three events since then, he missed the cut and finished 10 shots and 11 shots out of the lead.

"If I feel good, then I feel like I can play at any venue," Woods said at the U.S. Open. "When I'm stiff and not moving as well, it becomes a little bit more difficult."

This sounds like the new normal. He would not elaborate — that's the old normal — on how he felt at Bethpage, where he played only two holes of direction during the three days leading up to the first round. "I was in rough shape," he said.

Before leaving Pebble Beach, Woods said he would wind down and get his lifts up in the gym. His hope was that he would see more than one wind direction during practice at Royal Portrush, "especially on a course I've never played."

"I know Florida will not be the same temperature as Northern Ireland," he said with a smile. "I'm not going to be practicing with any sweaters at home, but it will be nice to get to Portrush and get with it again."



PETER MORRISON/AP

Francesco Molinari plays the sixth hole at Royal Portrush Golf Club, Northern Ireland on Monday during a practice round for the British Open. Molinari is the defending champion.

## Molinari facing long odds

## Stacked field presents challenges for defending champion

By DOUG FERGUSON  
Associated Press

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland — Golf's oldest championship is all about tradition, and this is one Francesco Molinari could have done without.

Fifty-one weeks after he won the British Open and gazed at his name etched on the silver claret jug, he had to return it.

Getting it back won't be easy. "I'm well aware of the challenges ahead," Molinari said Monday on the first day of official practice at Royal Portrush. "There's a lot of guys capable this week of winning the trophy. All I can do is do my best, try to put up a good defense and be in contention on Sunday. It's a long week ahead, so I'll try to take it step-by-step."

The first order of business was getting to know the links.

Molinari was among the 21 players who played the Irish Open in 2012 at Royal Portrush. The sharp elevation, sensational views of the limestone cliffs known as White Rocks and the Dunluce Castle in the distance, it all looked familiar. But it's not quite the same course.

The Royal & Ancient wanted two new holes — Nos. 7 and 8 — to weave into the century-old links so that the final two holes could be used for concessions and promotional displays for more than 200,000 spectators expected.

The elevation is rare for links golf, especially courses in the British Open rotation, and there are fewer pot bunkers.

"We play a lot in England where it's quite flat," Tommy Fleetwood said. "And in front of you there's a lot more bunkers on those links courses. There's a few more undulations and a few more blind shots. Sure, in general if you hit a good shot there's always a bit

of unpredictability on links golf. And you're going to get good breaks and bad breaks. But definitely, poor shots are going to get punished."

Tiger Woods was again out early, this time going 18 holes with Rickie Fowler and Dustin Johnson.

Just as much attention — if not more — figures to be on Rory McIlroy, playing before a home crowd in Northern Ireland on a course where he showed off his potential as a 16-year-old who set the course record at Royal Portrush with a 61 in the North of Ireland Amateur.

Walking onto the course, fans stopped to watch large video screens of McIlroy's pure swing as a lad, the curly locks and boyish looks of the teenager who shot the 61 at Royal Portrush, and then the older version of McIlroy tapping in to win the British Open five years ago at Hoylake.

He played the Scottish Open last week, finishing in the middle of the pack, and stayed away from Royal Portrush on Monday.

The honor of the opening tee shot Thursday goes to Darren Clarke, who was raised in Dunganagh but spent his formative years at Portrush, which he now calls home. The R&A chief executive asked Clarke if he would mind starting the 148th Open — and first at Royal Portrush since 1951 — and it was an easy answer.

This will be a nervous moment, and a proud one.

"As soon as he asked me, it was always going to be a yes," Clarke said. "Will there be tears? No. I'll just be very proud that we have it back here in Northern Ireland. It's going to be an amazing tournament. If you see how many people were in here yesterday watching, and again today, and all the practice tickets are all sold

out. The atmosphere is going to be amazing."

Clarke had the jug for a year after his victory at Royal St. George's in 2011, and he brought it with him to Royal Portrush for the Irish Open in 2012.

Molinari, who gets panned for being a flat-liner and loves it, didn't do anything too wild with golf's oldest trophy. He poured a few drinks from it but mostly kept it out of reach of his children to keep anything from happening to it.

"I was very, very careful with it, especially the first few weeks," Molinari said. "So much so that I forgot my TrackMan on the plane not to forget the claret jug. That, obviously, had the priority."

And now it's back with the R&A for seven days until a new name is carved into the silver base. Not since Padraig Harrington in 2007 and 2008 has a player turned in the jug on Monday and reclaimed it six days later.

Six of them finished 11 shots or more out of the lead. One missed the cut. McIlroy was unable to play because of injury. The only one who came remotely close to defending was Jordan Spieth last year. He had a share of the 54-hole lead and then played the final round without a birdie and finished four behind.

Molinari set out Monday to get reacquainted with Royal Portrush, though one aspect remains vivid — the noise. He played the opening round of the Irish Open with Clarke. Fans lined the sides of both fairways, even in the rain.

"It was just an incredible atmosphere," Molinari said. "I think that's a taste of what we're going to get this week. Everyone else in the field is looking forward to that."



JON SUPER/AP

Tiger Woods smiles as he walks off the practice ground on Tuesday at Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland. The British Open starts Thursday.



## SPORTS



## Big hopes for Brooklyn

Former Nets players say new lineup will contend » **Page 27**

## BRITISH OPEN

## Healthy choices

Woods heading into Royal Portrush with more rest than reps

By DOUG FERGUSON  
Associated Press

**T**hat was Tiger Woods in his red shirt on Sunday at the Masters. That was Tiger Woods slipping on the green jacket.

But it's not the same Tiger Woods.

The evidence has less to do with how he plays — still plenty good to beat the best in the world on the biggest stage — and more to do with how often he plays.

The chanting and cheering Sunday afternoon at Augusta National sounded as though it would go on forever. Woods, 11 years and four back surgeries removed from his last major, methodically worked his way around the back nine and beat a cast of contenders that included the past two major champions (Brooks Koepka and Francesco Molinari) and the No. 1 player in the world (Dustin Johnson).

It was his 15th major, and it started anew the countdown in his pursuit of Jack Nicklaus and his record 18 majors.

That now seems a lot longer than three months ago. Woods has played just three tournaments — 10 rounds — since he won the Masters. For only the seventh time in his career, he went from one major to the next without having played in between, and then he missed the cut at Bethpage Black in the PGA Championship.

Unusual? Not anymore.

He goes into the British Open, which starts Thursday on a Royal Portrush links, having not played since he shot 69 in the final round at Pebble Beach on June 16. A good back nine allowed him to tie for 21st. He finished 11 shots behind Gary Woodland.

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Tiger Woods plays the seventh hole at Royal Portrush Golf Club in Northern Ireland on Monday during a practice round ahead of the 148th Open Golf Championship.

PETER MORRISON/AP

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